



Hospice Indicators

Knowing when to refer a loved one for a hospice evaluation can be difficult. Signs that it may be time to consider hospice care may be subtle or very clear. People who might benefit from hospice care may demonstrate some of the following symptoms:

- Unintentional weight loss
- Excessive sleeping throughout the day for long periods
- Multiple hospital visits/stays in the past six months
- Excessive swelling of the legs and ankles, even when feet are propped up
- Difficulty breathing, even at rest or with increased oxygen levels
- Weakness during activities of daily living
- Frequent changes in medications
- Pain that is poorly controlled
- Loss of interest in activities
- Not “bouncing back” after an illness
- Not responding to current treatments or therapy
- Loss of appetite
- Confusion
- Wounds that are not healing
- Loss of speech
- Infections
- Difficulty sleeping through the night due to pain or other symptoms such as shortness of breath

Phone: 678.583.0717

Fax: 770.727.0202

SacredJourneyHospice.com

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