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## Hospice for Liver Disease

### Patient has both (A or B):

#### A. Synthetic failure as demonstrated by i. or ii. and iii.

i. Prothrombin time (PPT) prolonged more than five (5) seconds over control

**OR**

ii. International Normalized Ration (INR) > 1.5

**AND**

iii. Serum albumin <2.5gm/dl

**AND**

#### B. End -Stage liver disease is present, and the patient has one or more of the following conditions:

- Ascites, refractory to treatment or patient declines or is non-complaint
- History of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
- Hepatorenal syndrome (elevated creatinine with oliguria [ $<400$  ml/day])
- Hepatic encephalopathy, refractory to treatment or patient non-complaint
- History of recurrent variceal bleeding despite intensive therapy or patient declines therapy

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#### Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility:

- *Progressive malnutrition*
- *Muscle wasting with reduced strength*
- *Ongoing alcoholism (>80 gm ethanol/day)*
  - *Hepatocellular carcinoma*
  - *Hepatitis B surface antigen positive*
- *Hepatitis C refractory to interferon treatment.*

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In the absence of one or more of these findings, rapid decline or comorbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.

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