Hospice of the Piedmont
Guideline Worksheet for Determining Terminal Prognosis – Liver Disease – Initial Certification

Patient Name: __________________________ ID# __________________ Certification Date: _________________

The following criteria will support a prognosis of six months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course for patients with Liver Disease on initial certification.

Non-disease specific baseline guidelines: (both 1 and 2 should be met)

1) Physiologic impairment of function status as demonstrated by:
   a. Karnofsky Performance Status (KPS) or Palliative Performance Score (PPS) < 70% due to progression of disease
   KPS or PPS (circle one) Score: ________________%

2) Dependence on assistance for 2 or more activities of daily living (ADLs):
   - Feeding
   - Ambulation
   - Continence
   - Transfer
   - Bathing
   - Dressing

   PLUS

Disease Specific Guidelines: * (see note regarding patients awaiting liver transplant)

Guidelines 1 and 2 should be present.

1) The patient should show:
   a) Prothrombin time (Pro-time) prolonged more than 5 seconds over control
      Pro-time ________________ sec.
      or
      International Normalized Ratio (INR) > 1.5
      INR ______________________
   b) Serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl
      Serum albumin ____________ gm/dl

2) End stage (ES) liver disease is present and the patient shows at least one of the following:
   a) Ascites, refractory to treatment
   b) Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
   c) Hepatorenal syndrome (elevated creatinine & BUN with oliguria (<400 ml/day) & urine sodium concentration <10 mEq/l)
      Creatinine: ________________ mg/100 ml
      BUN: ________________ mg/100 ml
      Urinary output: ________________ ml/day
      Urine Na Conc.: ________________ mEq/l
   d) Hepatic encephalopathy, refractory to treatment
   or
   e) Patient non-compliant

3) Documentation of the following factors will support (but is not required to establish) eligibility for hospice care:
   a) Progressive malnutrition
   b) Muscle Wasting with reduced strength & endurance
   c) Continued active alcoholism (>80 gm ethanol/day)
   d) Hepatocellular carcinoma
   e) HbsAg (Hepatitis B) positivity
   f) Hepatitis C refractory to interferon treatment

*Patients awaiting liver transplant who otherwise fit the above criteria may be certified for Medicare hospice benefit, but if a donor organ is procured, the patient should be discharged from hospice

Comorbidities: A diagnosis that is not the primary hospice diagnosis nor related to the primary hospice diagnosis, but the presence and severity of such disease is likely to contribute to a life expectancy of 6 months or less. Such diseases are not related to the hospice diagnosis and do not therefore imply financial responsibility under the hospice benefit.

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Congestive heart failure (CHF)
- Neurological disease (CVA, ALS, MS, Parkinson’s)
- Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Neoplasi
- Ischemic heart disease
- Renal failure
- Dementia
- AIDS

Form completed by: __________________________ Date: __________________________

*The word “should” in the disease specific guidelines means that on medical review the guideline so identified will be given great weight in making coverage determination but does not mean, however, that meeting the guideline is obligatory.