

Inpatient Palliative Care Criteria

GRG: CG-PCC (ISC GRG)

MCG Health

General Recovery Care
30th Edition

This MCG care guideline has not yet been updated to reflect new guidance and requirements found in the 2024 Medicare Advantage and Part D Final Rule (CMS-4201-F). For Medicare Advantage beneficiaries, before referring to MCG care guidelines, users should first follow all guidance related to this topic located in CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and other statutes and regulations. Content used in MCG care guidelines may be used to supplement but does not replace, modify, or supersede existing Medicare regulations or applicable NCDs or LCDs.

Note: An appropriate Optimal Recovery Guideline (ORG) should be identified and used whenever possible. General Recovery Guideline tools are intended to aid only in situations in which no ORG appears applicable.

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Inpatient Palliative Care Criteria

Clinical Indications for Admission to Inpatient Care

- Inpatient palliative^[A] or formal inpatient hospice^[B] patient care needed, as indicated by **ALL** of the following(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(8)(9)(10)(11)(12):
 - ☐ Patient care need, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following:
 - Severe uncontrolled symptoms, including **1 or more** of the following(7)(13)(14)(15)(16):
 - Pain(17)(18)
 - Fatigue(19)
 - Nausea, vomiting, or dehydration(20)
 - Confusion or delirium(21)
 - Large-volume hemoptysis
 - Agitation(22)
 - Respiratory distress or dyspnea(23)(24)
 - Severe psychiatric distress (eg, anxiety, psychosis)(22)(25)
 - Exhausted caregiver or no caregiver available(26)(27)(28)(29)

☐ Patient's situation is unmanageable at any other level of care, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following(22)(30)(31):

- Inpatient care needed for condition that is **ALL** of the following:
 - Unmanageable with continuous care at home
 - Unmanageable with continuous care at recovery facility
 - Unmanageable with respite care at home
 - Unmanageable with respite care at recovery facility
- Inpatient care warranted because of **1 or more** of the following(5)(32):
 - Death imminent (24 to 72 hours)
 - Rapidly deteriorating condition despite course of optimal care
 - Treatment approach performable only in inpatient setting (eg, surgery or procedure planned)

Alternatives to Admission

- Skilled care nursing facility or nursing home care with hospice or palliative care services(1)(2)(3)(4)(11)(33)(34)(35)(36)
- Home hospice or palliative care services(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(11)(12)(33)(36)(37)(38)(39)(40)(41)(42)

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Footnotes

[A] The term "palliative care" is used to indicate management of distressing symptoms and comfort-focused care of patients, whether they are enrolled with a hospice organization or not. This guideline applies to situations where palliative care is needed in an acute care hospital.(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7) [A in Context Link 1]

[B] Hospice is a concept of care, an organization to provide care, and a payment benefit for care at the end of life.(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6) [B in Context Link 1]

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