



Wexner Heritage Village

Zusman Hospice

Every Moment

COPD/LUNG DISEASE



When is it time for Hospice Care?

Criteria to look for when referring for COPD and other Lung Diseases

When a combination of the following characteristics are present, a patient may qualify to receive hospice care:

Functionality

- Disabling dyspnea.
- Poor response to bronchodilators.
- Decreased functional capacity, e.g., needing bed to chair assistance, fatigue and cough.
(An FEV1 <30% is objective evidence for debilitating dyspnea but is not required)
- Resting heart rate > 100 bpm.

Conditions within the past 3 months

- Frequent visits to ER, hospitalization for pulmonary infections and/or respiratory failure, frequent new history of increased visits to MD office.
- Low oxygen level at rest (Hypoxemia- $pO_2 < 55$ mgHg by ABG) or oxygen saturation <88%.
- Excessive carbon dioxide (Hypercapnia- $pCO_2 > 50$ mm Hg).
- Unintentional weight loss.
- Episodes of bronchitis or pneumonia.
- Steroid dependent.
- Skin that is blue or grayish in color.
- Enlargement of heart.

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

COPD/Lung Disease