

PALLIATIVE CARE GUIDELINE

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) will authorize palliative care for members who meet the following criteria:

- A. Members ages 21 and older with a serious illness as defined in Section B below who are not enrolled in hospice.**
- B. Disease-specific eligibility criteria**
1. Congestive Health Failure (CHF): Must meet (a) AND (b):
 - a: The member is hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of CHF and no further invasive interventions are planned or the New York Heart Association (NYHA) heart failure classification III or higher is present,
AND
 - b: The member has an Ejection Fraction of less than 30% for systolic failure or significant co-morbidities.
 2. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): Must meet (a) OR (b):
 - a: The member has a Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV) 1 less than 35% of predicted and a 24-hour oxygen requirement of less than 3L/minute,
OR
 - b: The member has a 24-hour oxygen requirement of greater than or equal to 3L/minute.
 3. Advanced Cancer: Must meet (a) AND (b):
 - a: The member has a stage III or IV solid organ cancer, lymphoma, or leukemia,
AND
 - b: The member has a Karnofsky Performance Scale (KPS) score less than or equal to 70 or has failure of two lines of standard of care chemotherapy or radiation therapy.
 4. Liver Disease: Must meet (a) AND (b) combined OR (c) alone:
 - a: The member has evidence of irreversible liver damage, serum albumin less than 3.0, and International Normalized Ration (INR) greater than 1.3,
AND
 - b: The member has ascites, subacute bacterial peritonitis, hepatic encephalopathy, hepatorenal syndrome, or recurrent esophageal varices,
OR
 - c: The member has irreversible liver damage and has a Model for End Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score greater than 19.

References

Department of Health Care Services All Plan Letter 17-015 Palliative Care and Medi-Cal Managed Care.

Available at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPsandPolicyLetters/APL2017/APL17-015.pdf>. Accessed January 19, 2018.

“Performance Scales: Karnofsky and ECOG Scores,” <http://oncologypro.esmo.org/Oncology-in-Practice/Practice-Tools/Performance-Scales>. Accessed January 19, 2018.

MELD score calculator is available at: <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/resources/allocation-calculators/meldcalculator>. Accessed January 19, 2018.

NYHA classifications are available at: http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/HeartFailure/AboutHeartFailure/Classes-of-HeartFailure_UCM_306328_Article.jsp#.WefN7rpFxxo. Accessed January 19, 2018.

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINE HISTORY			
Adopted By MAC	Reapproved	Revised	Retired
January 25, 2018			