



TRAJECTORY OF ILLNESS

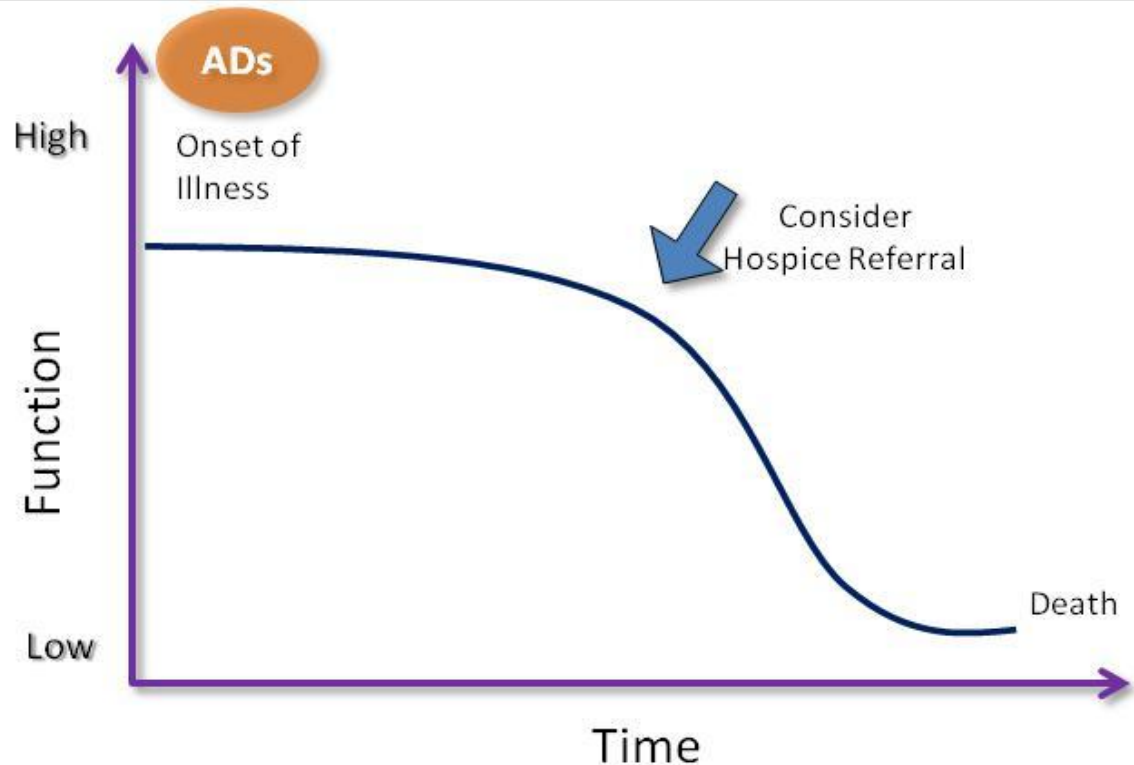
Adapted from Living Well at the End of Life: Adapting Health Care to Serious Chronic Illness in Old Age; Rand Health White Paper WP-137 (2003)

<http://www.medicaring.org/whitepaper>

Cancer

- Stage IV at time of diagnosis
- Does not want to pursue aggressive treatment
- Can't walk unaided into MD office
- No significant response to 2-3 lines of chemo

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- Timeframe is often a few years from onset, but decline usually < 2 months



Initiate Advance Directives

Consider a conversation about advance directives at the onset of illness, no matter the expected outcome of treatment.