



TRAJECTORY OF ILLNESS

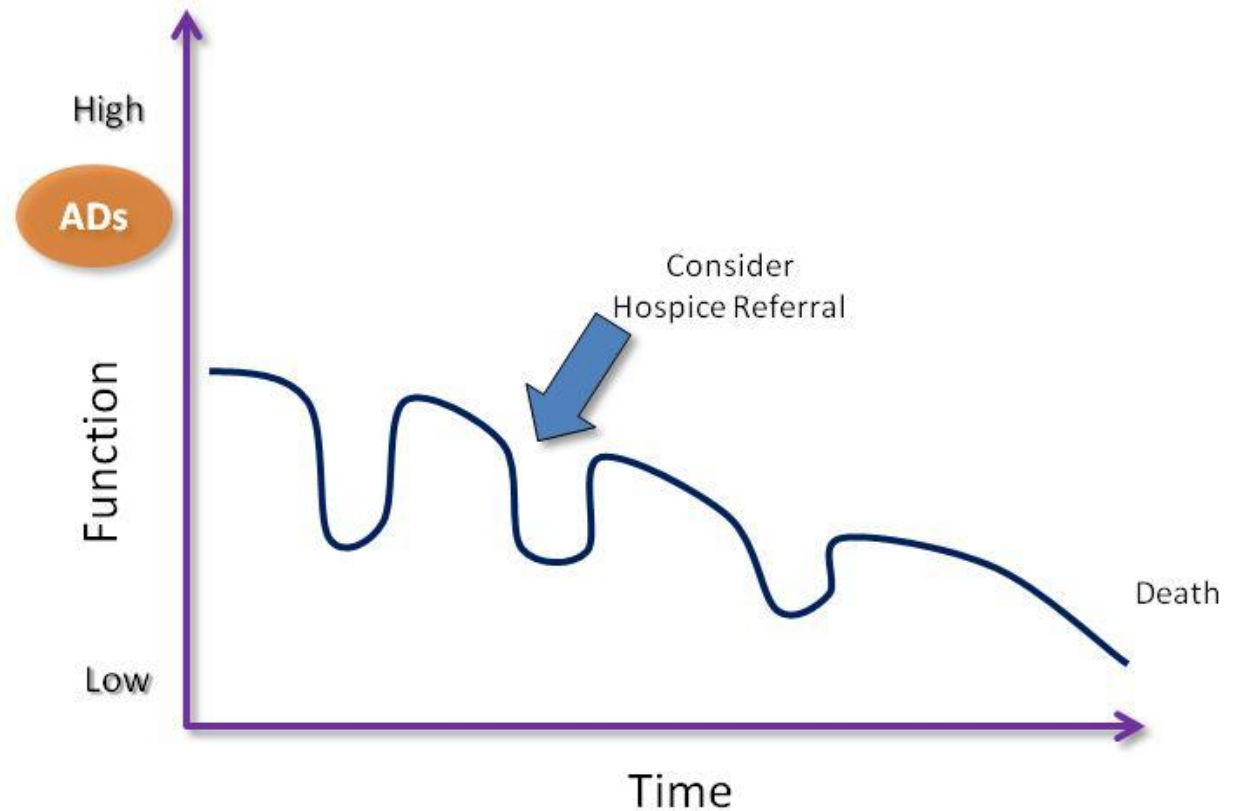
Adapted from Living Well at the End of Life: Adapting Health Care to Serious Chronic Illness in Old Age; Rand Health White Paper WP-137 (2003)

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

End Stage Heart Disease

- Are they optimally treated with heart medications?
- Have significant/recurrent symptoms at rest?
- Experience disabling dyspnea at rest?
- Other co-morbidities (renal insufficiency, pulmonary edema, dementia)?
- Hospitalized 2x in 6 months
- Self care becomes difficult

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- Timeframe is 2-5 yrs, but death seems 'sudden'



Initiate Advance Directives

Consider a conversation about advance directives for all patients with heart failure.