

Advance Care Planning Communication Guide
**Residents at High Risk of Entering
the Actively Dying Process**



The following characteristics should prompt proactive advance care planning, and consideration of a Palliative Care plan, Comfort Care Orders, and/or enrollment in Hospice:

- Frequent Emergency Room visits and/or hospitalizations over the last 6 months**
- Semi-comatose state**
- Minimal oral intake (or receiving continuous IV hydration or tube feeding)**
- Inability or difficulty with taking oral medicines**
- Major decline in functional status with no identified reversible cause**
- Mottling of extremities**
- Primary diagnosis of metastatic cancer**
- Primary diagnosis of advanced dementia**
- Existing DNR order**