Physician uses all available information to evaluate for:

- Terminal prognosis of 6 months or less
- Terminal and related diagnoses that contribute to the terminal prognosis
- Symptoms caused or exacerbated by terminal diagnosis, related diagnosis or treatment of terminal and related diagnoses

Note: Determining relatedness is a continuous process by the hospice physician which takes into account the changes in the patient's condition.

Identify the **PRINCIPAL (TERMINAL) HOSPICE DIAGNOSIS***

Are there other diagnoses caused by or exacerbated by the **PRINCIPAL HOSPICE DIAGNOSIS***?

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The physician narrative statement and the clinical record is the appropriate documentation location for the certifying physician to reference the principal hospice diagnosis, related diagnoses, patient prognosis, and eligibility.

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**NOTE:**

- The decision about relatedness is determined by the hospice physician and is individualized based on the patient’s clinical status. (patient-by-patient, case-by-case)
- Decisions about relatedness change as the patient’s condition changes.
- Clinical examples related to this process flow are included in the “Determining Relatedness in Hospice” resource.

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*The following are used as equivalent terms:*

terminal hospice diagnosis = principal hospice diagnosis = primary terminal diagnosis = primary hospice condition

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