Outpatient Reasons to Refer to Palliative Specialist

1. Needs someone to support or lead a challenging advance care planning or goals of care discussion¹
2. Has progressive disease where uncontrolled symptoms interfere with quality of life or performance status¹
3. Has a cancer diagnosis and has failure to thrive or frailty¹
4. Patient or family requests a palliative care consult¹
5. Has a life limiting cancer and poor functional status (ECOG of 3) and the patient or health care agent has declined a hospice referral
6. Has chemotherapy-refractory advanced cancer with a good functional status and is not yet being referred for hospice¹
7. Has any stage cancer diagnosis, but quality of life and/or survival is limited by debility, has frequent hospitalizations and/or other concurrent chronic medical issues such that prognosis is less than 1 year¹

Reasons for Referral to Hospice Care

1. The patient is no longer able to come into the oncology clinic for visits due to debility, symptoms etc.²
2. Patient with chemotherapy-refractory metastatic solid tumor malignancy or refractory hematologic malignancy
3. Life expectancy less than 6 months and the patient’s goals of care are focused on comfort⁴
4. Poor performance status (ECOG 2 or more) which inhibits use of chemotherapy
5. Patient with a cancer diagnosis, other serious chronic comorbidities, debility and/or frequent hospitalizations as well as a life expectancy of less than 6 months², ⁴

²National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.
⁴Medicare Guidelines for Hospice eligibility