

Qualifying Hospice Guidelines for Dementia



Note: This section is specific for Alzheimer's and Related disorders, and is not appropriate for other types of dementia.

1. Patients with dementia should have **all** of the following to qualify for hospice care:

- Unable to ambulate w/o assistance
- Unable to bathe w/o assistance
- No consistently meaningful verbal communication. Stereotypical phrases only or ≤ 6 intelligible words
- Unable to dress w/o assistance
- Urinary / fecal incontinence (intermittent or constant)
- FAST Score stage 7

2. Patients with dementia should have had **one** of the following within the past 12 months:

- Aspiration pneumonia
- Pyelonephritis
- Septicemia
- Multiple decubitus ulcers Stage 3-4
- Recurrent fever after antibiotics
- Inability to maintain sufficient calorie intake w/ 10% wt loss during previous 6 months or serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl

Reisberg FAST Score – (Stage 7 plus all of the required elements)

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1.0; Requires assist dressing | 6a _____ |
| 1.2; Requires assist bathing | 6b _____ |
| 1.4; Requires assist toileting | 6c _____ |
| 1.6; Incontinent of urine | 6d _____ |
| 1.8; Fecal incontinence | 6e _____ |
| 2.0; Speaks < 6 intelligible words | 7a _____ |
| 2.2; Speaks / repeats 1 intelligible word | 7b _____ |
| 2.4; Cannot ambulate without assistance | 7c _____ |
| 2.6; Cannot sit without assistance | 7d _____ |
| 2.8; Loss of ability to smile | 7e _____ |
| 3.0; Unable to hold head up independently | 7f _____ |

Karnofsky Status – Pick one value (status of 70% or less required)

Moribund / imminent death	10 _____
Very sick / active supportive tx	20 _____
Severely disabled / req close monitoring	30 _____
Disabled / req special care / assistance	40 _____
Req much assistance / freq med care	50 _____
Req occasional assist / self care most ADL	60 _____
Self Care ADL's / limited activity	70 _____
Normal activity with effort / S&S of dx	80 _____
Normal activity / minor S&S of dx	90 _____
No evidence of dx	100 _____

Palliative Performance Score – (Poor functional status at or below 70%)

Totally bed bound / unable to do any activity; intake: mouth care only; drowsy or coma	10 _____
Totally bed bound / unable to do any activity; intake: minimal to sips; full or drowsy	20 _____
Totally bed bound / unable to do any activity; intake: normal / reduced; full or drowsy	30 _____
Mainly in bed / unable to do most activity mainly assist; intake: normal / reduced; full or drowsy	40 _____
Mainly sit / lie / unable to do any work; considerable assistance req; intake: normal / reduced; full or confusion	50 _____
Activity unable hobby / housework; req occasional assistance; intake: normal / reduced; full consciousness / confusion	60 _____
Unable to do normal job / work; indep. care; intake: normal / reduced; full consciousness	70 _____
Full / normal activity with effort; indep. care; intake: normal; full consciousness	80 _____
Full / normal activity and work; indep. care; intake: normal; full consciousness	90 _____
Full / normal activity and work; indep. care; intake: normal; full consciousness	100 _____

Karnofsky Status (<70%) _____

Palliative Performance Score (<70%) _____

FAST (if applicable) _____