

# Qualifying Hospice Guidelines for General Debility



Part 1, 2 are weighted more than part 3.

## Part 1: Worsening of clinical status

- Recurrent or intractable infection; pneumonia, sepsis, UTI
- Weight loss of at least of 10% body weight in past 6 months not due to reversible causes.
- Decreasing anthropomorphic measurements, or observation of the consequences of weightloss (ill-fitting clothes, changes in skin folds, etc.
- Dysphagia leading to recurrent aspiration and/or decreased oral intake
- Decreasing serum albumin or cholesterol

## Part 2: Worsening of signs and symptoms

- Decline in systolic BP <90 or postural hypotension
- Ascites
- Venous, arterial, or lymphatic destruction from local disease progression or metastatic disease
- Edema
- Pleural or pericardial effusions
- Weakness
- Changes in level of consciousness
- Dyspnea with increased respiration rate
- Intractable cough
- Nausea and vomiting poorly responsive to treatment
- Intractable diarrhea
- Increased needs of pain medication

## Part 3: Labs (if available)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing pCO <sub>2</sub> or<br>decreasing pO <sub>2</sub> or O <sub>2</sub> sat. | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing Ca            | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing Creatinine     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing AST/ALT  | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing tumor markers | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing K <sup>+</sup> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing or decreasing NA <sup>+</sup>  |   |  |

## Co-morbidities:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| COPD <input type="checkbox"/>                                      | CHF <input type="checkbox"/>           | Ischemic heart disease <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Diabetes mellitus <input type="checkbox"/>                         | Neurologic dx <input type="checkbox"/> | Renal failure <input type="checkbox"/>                |
| Liver disease <input type="checkbox"/>                             | Neoplasia <input type="checkbox"/>     | AIDS <input type="checkbox"/>                         |
| Dementia <input type="checkbox"/>                                  | Other <input type="checkbox"/>         | Stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increasing ER, hospitalization, MD visits <input type="checkbox"/> |  |   |

Decline in KPS, PPS or advancing FAST score.

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

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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 _____

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

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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 _____

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

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|---|----------|
| 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 (<70%)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Palliative Performance Score (<70%)* \_\_\_\_\_

*FAST (if applicable)* \_\_\_\_\_