



# HOSPICE Guidelines



## STROKE AND COMA

*Guidelines for End-Stage Stroke, Coma and Related Disorders*

### CORE INDICATORS:

In the physician's clinical judgment, the patient has a terminal condition of 6 months or less if the disease follows its usual course.

Documentation of End Stage Disease is present.

The patient/family is informed of the life-limiting condition and choose palliative care.

Recent impaired functional and/or nutritional status.

### AS EVIDENCED BY:

- A Palliative Performance Scale of < 40; mainly in bed, mostly requiring assistance with self care
- One of the following MUST be present and documented in Medical Record:
  - Weight loss > 10% during the previous 6 months
  - Weight loss > 7.5% in previous 3 months
  - Serum Albumin < 2.5 gm/dl
  - Current history of pulmonary aspiration without effective response to speech language pathology interventions
  - Calorie counts documenting inadequate caloric/fluid intake

**Would you be surprised by this patient's  
death within the next six months?**



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