Stroke & Coma

**Acute Phase Patients:**

___Coma or persistent vegetative state secondary to stroke, beyond three days’ duration

___In post-anoxic stroke, coma or severe obtundation, accompanied by severe myoclonus, persistent beyond three days past the anoxic event

___Comatose patients with any four (4) of the following on day 3 of coma had 97% mortality by 2 months:

a. ___Abnormal brain stem response
b. ___Absent verbal response
c. ___Absent withdrawal response to pain
d. ___Serum creatinine >1.5 mg/dl
e. ___Age > 70

___Dysphagia severe enough to prevent the patient from receiving food and fluids necessary to sustain life, in a patient who declines or is not a candidate for artificial nutrition and hydration

**Chronic Phase Patients:**

___Age > 70

___Poor functional status as evidenced by Karnofsky score of < 50%

___Post stroke dementia as evidenced by a FAST score > 7

___Poor nutritional status, whether artificial nutrition or not:

a. ___unintentional, progressive weight loss > 10% over 6 months
b. ___serum albumin < 2.5 mg/dl

___Medical complications related to debility:

a. ___aspiration pneumonia
b. ___upper urinary tract infection
c. ___sepsis
d. ___stage 3-4 decubitus ulcers
e. ___fever recurrent after antibiotics