

End-Stage Alzheimer's Disease

Secondary conditions and comorbid conditions should also be considered with a dementia diagnosis.

The FAST Scale has been used for many years to track the progression of Alzheimer's Disease. Stage 7 identifies the threshold of activity limitation that would support a six month prognosis.

Stage 7:

- Loss of speech, locomotion, and consciousness
- Ability to speak limited to ≤ 6 words a day
- All intelligible vocabulary lost
- Non-ambulatory
- Unable to sit up independently
- Unable to smile
- Unable to hold head up

Has the patient had one or more of the following medical complications related to dementia during the past year:

aspiration pneumonia

upper urinary tract infection

septicemia

decubitus ulcers, multiple, stage 3-4

fever recurrent after antibiotics

inability or unwillingness to take food or fluids sufficient to sustain life

Patients who are receiving tube feedings must have a documented impaired nutritional status as indicated by either:

unintentional, progressive weight loss of greater than 10% over the last six months

-or-

serum albumin less than 2.5 gm/dl

Quick Guide for Evaluating Weight Loss

Initial Weight	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112	116	120
3% Loss	78	81	85	89	93	97	101	105	109	113	116
5% Loss	76	80	84	87	91	95	99	103	106	110	114
7.5% Loss	74	78	81	85	89	93	96	100	104	107	111
10% Loss	72	76	79	83	86	90	94	97	101	104	108

Initial Weight	124	128	132	136	140	144	148	150	155	160
-3%	120	124	128	132	136	140	144	146	150	155
-5%	118	122	125	129	133	137	141	143	147	152
-7.5%	115	118	122	126	130	133	137	139	143	148
-10%	112	115	119	122	126	130	133	135	140	144