

# **General Guidelines—All Diagnoses**

- 1. Life-limiting condition**
- 2. Patient/family informed condition is life limiting**
- 3. Patient/family elected palliative care**
- 4. Documentation of clinical progression of disease**
  - a. \_\_\_physician assessment
  - b. \_\_\_lab studies
  - c. \_\_\_radiologic or other studies
  - d. \_\_\_multiple ED visits
  - e. \_\_\_inpatient hospitalizations
  - f. \_\_\_home health nursing assessment

**and/or**

\_\_\_**Recent decline in functional status as evidenced by:**

- **Palliative Performance Scale Score  $\leq$  40%**
- and/or**
- **Dependence in 3 of 6 Activities of Daily Living  
(Bathing, dressing, feeding, transfers,  
continence of urine & stool, ambulation to bathroom)**
- and/or**
- **Recent impaired nutritional status evidenced by**
    1. **unintentional, progressive weight loss of 10% over past 6 months**
    2. **serum albumin < 2.5 gm/dl**

## Instructions for Use of the Palliative Performance Scale

- Begin at the left column and read downward until the appropriate ambulation level is reached
- Then read across to the next column and downward again until the activity and evidence of disease is located
- Repeat these steps until all 5 columns are covered before assigning the PPS
- In this way, leftward columns are stronger determinants
- Use the scores in 10% increments only
- **A final score of 40% or less is an indicator of hospice eligibility**

| %    | Ambulation        | Activity & Evidence of Disease                          | Self-Care                        | Intake            | Conscious Level              |
|------|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 100% | Full              | Normal activity & work<br>No evidence of disease        | Full                             | Normal            | Full                         |
| 90%  | Full              | Normal activity & work<br>Some evidence of disease      | Full                             | Normal            | Full                         |
| 80%  | Full              | Normal activity with effort<br>Some evidence of disease | Full                             | Normal or reduced | Full                         |
| 70%  | Reduced           | Unable normal job/work<br>Significant disease           | Full                             | Normal or reduced | Full                         |
| 60%  | Reduced           | Unable hobby/house work<br>Significant disease          | Occasional assistance necessary  | Normal or reduced | Full or Confusion            |
| 50%  | Mainly sit/lie    | Unable to do any work<br>Extensive disease              | Considerable assistance required | Normal or reduced | Full or Drowsy +/- confusion |
| 40%  | Mainly in bed     | Unable to do any activity<br>Extensive disease          | Mainly assistance                | Normal or reduced | Full or Drowsy +/- confusion |
| 30%  | Totally Bed Bound | Unable to do any activity<br>Extensive disease          | Total Care                       | Normal or reduced | Full or Drowsy +/- confusion |
| 20%  | Totally Bed Bound | Unable to do any activity<br>Extensive disease          | Total Care                       | Minimal to sips   | Full or Drowsy +/- confusion |
| 10%  | Totally Bed Bound | Unable to do any activity<br>Extensive disease          | Total Care                       | Mouth care only   | Drowsy or coma +/- confusion |
| 0%   | Death             | —   | —                                | —                 | —                            |