

Cerebral Vascular Accident/Stroke or Coma

The patient has both 1 and 2:

1. Poor functional status with Palliative Performance Score of 40% or less (unable to care for self)*
AND

2. Poor nutritional status with inability to maintain sufficient fluid and calorie intake with either:

- >10% weight loss over the previous six months
- >7.5% weight loss over the previous three months
- Serum albumin <2.5 gm/dl
- Current history of pulmonary aspiration without effective response to speech language pathology interventions to improve dysphagia and decrease aspiration events

Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility:

Coma (any etiology) with three of the following on the third day of coma:

- Abnormal brain stem response
- Absent verbal responses
- Absent withdrawal response to pain
- Serum creatinine >1.5 gm/dl

In the absence of one or more of these findings, rapid decline or comorbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.

*See Appendix 2 for Palliative Performance Scale