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Patient Name: _____ ID #: _____

Decline in Health Status

Patients with decline in health status must show decline in the clinical variables listed below:

- Progression** of disease as documented by symptoms, signs and test results
- Decline** in Karnofsky Performance Status or Palliative Performance Score/Adapted Karnofsky
- Weight loss; decreased anthropomorphic measures (med-arm circumference, abdominal girth) not due to reversible causes such as depression or use of diuretics; decreasing serum albumin or cholesterol
- Dependence on assistance for two or more activities of daily living (ADLs)
 - Feeding
 - Ambulation
 - Continence
 - Transfer
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
- Dysphagia leading to inadequate nutritional intake (documented by, for example, a trend established by comparing changes in food portion consumption)
- Recurrent aspiration
- Decline in systolic blood pressure to <90 systolic or progressive postural hypotension.
- Increasing emergency room visits or hospitalization related to the hospice primary diagnosis
- Decline in Functional Assessment Staging (FAST) for dementia
- Progressive Stage 3 – 4 pressure ulcers in spite of optimal care.

ICD-9 Codes

Claims should include an ICD-9 code for the diagnosis of the terminal illness, if applicable, plus one or more codes descriptive of the condition of conditions resulting in decline. The following codes include those most likely to describe condition with decline. As many codes as are applicable should be listed that can be accommodated on the claim form.

458.9	Hypotension, unspecified	785.4	Gangrene
707.0	Decubitus ulcer	785.50-785.59	Shock without mention of trauma
780.01	Coma	787.2	Dysphagia
780.03	Persistent vegetative state	787.6	Incontinence of feces
780.09	Alteration of consciousness (stupor/unconsciousness)	788.31-788.39	Incontinence of urine
780.9	Other general symptoms	790.6	Other abnormal blood chemistry (alb, chol)
783.0	Anorexia	797	Senility without mention of psychosis
783.2	Abnormal weight loss	799.3	Debility, unspecified (may include "failure to thrive")
783.3	Feeding difficulties and mismanagement	799.4	Cachexia (may include "failure to thrive")