

Cerebral Vascular Accident/Stroke or Coma

The patient has both 1 **and** 2:

1. Poor functional status with Palliative Performance Scale of <40% (unable to care for self)
(See Appendix 2)
2. Poor nutritional status with inability to maintain sufficient caloric intake with one of the following:
 - >10% weight loss over the previous six (6) months - or -
 - >7.5% weight loss over the previous three (3) months
 - Serum albumin <3.0 gm/dl
 - Current history of pulmonary aspiration without effective response to speech therapy to improve dysphagia and decrease aspiration events

Supporting evidence for hospice eligibility

Coma (any etiology) with three (3) of the following on the third (3rd) 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 co-morbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.