Functional Assessment Staging (FAST) for Dementia

Assess highest consecutive level of disability

1 No difficulty either subjectively or objectively.
2 Complains of forgetting location of objects. Subjective work difficulties.
3 Decreased job functioning evident to co-workers. Difficulty in traveling to new locations. Decreased organizational capacity.*
4 Decreased ability to perform complex tasks (e.g. planning dinner for guests, handling personal finances [such as forgetting to pay bills], difficulty shopping, etc.).
5 Requires assistance in choosing proper clothing to wear for the day, season or occasion (e.g. patient may wear the same clothing repeatedly unless supervised).

6A Improperly putting on clothes without assistance or cueing (e.g. may put on street clothes on over night clothes, or put shoes on the wrong feet, or have difficulty buttoning clothing).
6B Unable to bathe properly (e.g. difficulty adjusting the bath-water temperature).
6C Inability to handle mechanisms of toileting (e.g. forgets to flush the toilet, does not wipe properly or properly dispose of toilet tissue).
6D Urinary incontinence (worsening).
6E Fecal incontinence (worsening).

7A Ability to speak is limited to 6 different intelligible words or fewer in the course of an average day or in the course of an intensive interview.
7B Speech ability is limited to the use of a single intelligible word in an average day or in of an intensive interview (the person may repeat the word over and over).
7C Ambulatory ability is lost (cannot walk without personal assistance).
7D Cannot sit up without assistance (e.g. the individual will fall over if there are not lateral rests [arms] on the chair).
7E Loss of ability to smile.
7F Loss of ability to hold head up independently.

*Scored primarily on the basis of information obtained from knowledgeable source. Reisberg, B. Functional Assessment Staging (FAST). Psychopharmacology Bulletin 1988; 24:-653-659

Patients with a FAST score of 7A are generally hospice eligible.