

## Cerebral Vascular Accident/Stroke or Coma

The patient has both 1 and 2

1. Poor functional status with Palliative Performance Scale of 40% or less (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 (3<sup>rd</sup>) 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.**