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 (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.