

Eli's Hospice Insider

Tool: Try Using These Quantifiable Measures To Nail Your Terminal Diagnosis Documentation

Without objective evidence of your patient's decline, you are risking claims denials and your compliance record. HHH MAC **CGS** offers these examples of quantifiable measures it likes to see in hospice patients' records:

- Change in patient's weight (pounds or kilograms)
- Worsening diagnosis lab results (increase, decrease)
- Change in pain:
 - Type (ache, throb, sharp)
 - Intensity (level 0-10)
 - Location (upper, lower)
 - Frequency (hourly, daily)
 - Medication usage (dosage, frequency)
 - Change in responsiveness (fading, alert, unresponsive)
 - Skin thickness/condition (fragile, intact, tears easily)
 - Dependence on ADLs
 - Occurrences of incontinence
 - Dress (assisted, unassisted)
 - Bathe (assisted, unassisted)
 - Ambulation ability (assisted, unassisted)
 - Ambulation distance (feet, steps)
 - Change in anthropomorphic measures
 - Upper arm measurement (inches, centimeters)
 - Abdominal girth (inches, centimeters)
 - Change in signs
 - Respiratory rate (increased, decreased)
 - Oxygen flow rate (liters)
 - Hyper/hypotension
 - Radial/apical pulse (tachycardic, bradycardiac, regular, irregular)
 - Edema (level 1-4, pitting, non-pitting)

- Turgor (slow, normal)

- Changes in strength, weakness (level 0-5)
- Change in lucidity (oriented, confused)
- Measurement/change in intake/output

- Amount (cups, liters, ounces, teaspoons, mgs, ml, cc)

- Frequency.

Plus: General quantifiable values to keep in mind are size, timeframe, and frequency, CGS suggests. Other values may include head elevation and speech pattern.

Note: See the entire documentation tool, which also addresses admission requirements, physician services, and more, at www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/education/materials/pdf/Hospice%20Documentation%20Tool_H-021-01_07-2011.pdf.