Guideline for Determining Terminal Prognosis
Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Disorders with Dementia
– Initial Certification
Rev 10/15

Patients will be considered to be in the terminal stage of dementia (life expectancy of six months or less) with Alzheimer’s disease or Related Disorders on initial certification if they meet the following criteria.

This section is specific for Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders and is not appropriate for other types of dementia.

NOTE: The word “should” in the disease specific guidelines means that on medical review the guideline so identified will be given great weight in making coverage determination but does not mean, however, that meeting the guideline is obligatory.

1. GENERAL DECLINE IN CLINICAL STATUS GUIDELINES for non-disease specific baseline guidelines, Part II

PLUS

2. Disease Specific Guidelines for Dementia due to Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Disorders:

A. Patients with dementia should show ALL of the following characteristics:
   1) Stage 7 or beyond according to the Functional Assessment Staging (FAST) Scale
   2) Unable to ambulate without assistance
   3) Unable to dress without assistance
   4) Unable to bathe without assistance
   5) Urinary and fecal incontinence, intermittent or constant
   6) No consistently meaningful verbal communication: stereotypical phrases only or the ability to speak is limited to six or fewer intelligible words.

B. Patients should have had one of the following within the past 12 months:
   1) Aspiration pneumonia
   2) Pyelonephritis
   3) Septicemia
   4) Decubitus ulcers, multiple, stage 3-4
   5) Fever, recurrent after antibiotics
   6) Inability to maintain sufficient fluid and calorie intake with 10% weight loss during the previous six months or serum albumin <2.5 gm/dl