



A PALLIATIVE APPROACH TO CARE

There are often signs that a resident's health is declining and they are at higher risk of dying. Being attuned to these signs allows health care providers to better inform and guide residents and their families in this final season of their life. **What factors support the care team's impression that the resident is at risk of dying in the coming months?**

Early Identification Tool

CHECK ALL THE FACTORS THAT ARE RELEVANT FOR THE RESIDENT

- Progressive weight loss (greater than 10% in 6 months)
- Progressive, irreversible functional decline
- Resident or family asking for comfort measures only, treatment withdrawal or limitation
- Unplanned transfers to Emergency Department or hospital admissions
- Extreme frailty (e.g. persistent pressure ulcers, recurrent infections, delirium, persistent swallowing difficulties, falls)
- Advanced dementia or other neurological disease (e.g. unable to dress, walk or eat without help, incontinence, unable to communicate verbally, eating and drinking less, swallowing difficulties, recurrent UTI, aspiration pneumonia)
- Advanced cancer diagnosis
- Severe heart disease (e.g. breathlessness or chest pain at rest or with minimal exertion)
- Severe respiratory disease (e.g. breathless at rest or with minimal exertion, on oxygen therapy, recurrent hospitalizations)
- Advanced illness of any cause with progressive function decline or poorly controlled symptoms

Resident **NOT "identified"** at this time,
to be reviewed on this date: _____

Resident **"identified"** at this time,
date of Identification: _____

Signature: _____

Criteria adapted from Supportive and Palliative Care Indicators Tool (SPICT™) www.spict.org.uk and The Gold Standards Framework Proactive Identification Guidance (PIG) 2016 v56 © The Gold Standards Framework Centre in End of Life Care www.goldstandardsframework.org.uk/PIG