

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

This worksheet is a guide for initial and re-certification assessments. It must be accompanied by narrative documentation. Construct a narrative from the information on this worksheet and from the physician and record on back. The patient should be re-evaluated at specific intervals set by the interdisciplinary team.

Patient Name: _____ MR#: _____ Date _____

In determining prognosis for the ALS patient, examination by a neurologist within three months of assessment is advised. All patients must meet criteria 1 and 2, or 3.

1. The patient must demonstrate critically impaired breathing capacity with all the following:

- Vital capacity (VC) less than 30% of normal
- Significant dyspnea at rest
- Supplemental oxygen required at rest
- Patient declines artificial ventilation

2. Patient must demonstrate both rapid progression of ALS and at least one of the following life-threatening complications:

- Recurrent aspiration pneumonia
- Sepsis
- Upper urinary tract infection
(e.g., Pyelonephritis)
- Fever recurrent after antibiotics

3. Patient must demonstrate both rapid progression of ALS and critical nutritional impairment:

A. Rapid progression as demonstrated by all the following within the last 12 months:

- Progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair or bed-bound status
- Progression from normal to barely intelligible or unintelligible speech
- Progression from normal to pureed diet
- Progression from independence in all or most ADL's to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADL's

B. Critically impaired nutritional status as demonstrated by all the following within the last 12 months:

- Absence of artificial feeding methods
- Oral intake of nutrients and fluids insufficient to sustain life
- Continued weight loss
- Dehydration or hypovolemia

Narrative Summary of Prognosis Documentation

Documentation should be complete, consistent, concise, specific, measurable, and descriptive.

Patient Name: _____ MR#: _____

Diagnosis— Present underlying illness(es) and all other illness(es) affecting the terminal diagnosis:

Co-morbidity that affects the prognosis:

History and progression of the illness(es):

Physical baseline (e.g., weight and weight change, vital signs, heart rhythms, rales, degree of edema):

Laboratory (if pertinent):

Physician's prognosis stating why there is a life expectancy of six (6) months or less (e.g., patient depressed, will not eat and does not want anything done, or has had optimal therapy for illness.):

RN Signature

Date

Physician Signature

Date