



National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Patient Outcomes and Measures

SELF-DETERMINED LIFE CLOSURE MANUAL

MEASURE QUESTIONS:

Do you want to avoid hospitalization if your condition worsens?

Do you want cardiopulmonary resuscitation if your heart or lungs stop working?

RATING SCALE:

YES or NO or UNDECIDED.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE SIZE

100% of the hospice's patients are expected to receive a thorough assessment (including physical, functional, emotional and spiritual components) upon admission. This aspect of the end result outcomes study is intended to determine the extent to which clinical interventions are consistent with preferences expressed by the patient or legal representative.

PROCEDURE:

1. The patient/surrogate responses to these measures are determined and documented by a nurse or social worker on or within 48 hours of admission. However, you may record preference changes on the **Patient Core Measure Sheet**.
2. It is most desirable to have the patient respond if they are alert and oriented. If they are not, the law allows legally designated surrogates to guide decision-making. The patient may have an advance directive such as a living will, or have assigned Power of Attorney for Health Care to a friend or family member other than the closest relative. Determine which surrogate has the legal right to guide decision-making and check off the appropriate box in the Respondent row.
3. Upon admission or during any subsequent change in preference, the nurse or social worker fills in the date, the respondent's identification, reads the 2 questions related to hospitalization and CPR and documents the preference for each.
4. Following the patient's discharge by death, the team or chart reviewer circles the appropriate Yes or No in the Discharge Date column, entering the date of death (DOD).
5. The measure is not intended to supplant the usual procedures the hospice has for preference assessment, documentation or follow-up.
6. The procedure for determining what constitutes a hospitalization is complex. Please refer to the written description at the end of this document.



SCENARIOS YOU MIGHT ENCOUNTER

1. Upon admission, the patient or surrogate does not respond clearly to the question concerning a preference regarding cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, like “I don’t know, I need time to think about it.”

Circle undecided

2. In response to the hospitalization question, the patient or family member says “If I have an infection that can be treated I want to be hospitalized; if my general condition is worsening I don’t.”

Circle No. While the question is about “worsening condition,” hospitalization may be required to determine the cause of the new condition and the patient has said they want to be hospitalized for treatment of certain conditions.

3. The family does not wish the discussion of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to be initiated with the patient, yet the patient is capable of meaningful discussion (no surrogate involved).

The measurement cannot occur, so the patient is not included in this aspect of the study. Complete the pain level questions and return the Patient Core Measure Sheet.