

# Gray Area Hospice Risk & Eligibility Checklist

For Interdisciplinary Team & Recertification Review Use

## 1. Functional Trajectory

- PPS trending downward over last 1–2 benefit periods
- Increased assistance required for ADLs
- Increased time in bed or chair
- Reduced ambulation or new assistive device
- Increased dyspnea with minimal exertion
- Recent falls or increased fall risk

## 2. Nutritional Status

- Unintentional weight loss (5% in 30 days or 10% in 6 months)
- Decreased oral intake (<50–75% of meals)
- Increased swallowing difficulty or aspiration risk
- Visible muscle wasting or frailty
- Increased reliance on supplements or feeding support

## 3. Acute Events / Instability

- Recurrent infections (UTIs, aspiration pneumonia, etc.)
- Increased need for medication titration
- ED visits (even if not admitted)
- Two or more falls in 90 days
- Pressure injury progression
- Failure to return to prior baseline after illness

## 4. Disease-Specific Markers

- Evidence of progression consistent with terminal diagnosis



- Increased symptom burden despite treatment
- Declining performance status
- Treatment discontinued or limited due to frailty

### **5. Caregiver & Psychosocial Burden**

- Increased caregiver fatigue or distress
- Reports of more frequent 'bad days'
- Increased supervision required for safety
- Emotional withdrawal or cognitive decline

### **Documentation Defensibility Check**

- Chart reflects trajectory over time (not just today's status)
- Narrative explains what findings mean for prognosis
- IDG notes reflect interdisciplinary agreement
- Cumulative decline clearly documented

