

The Hospice benefit is provided to beneficiaries with clinical evidence and descriptive notes to show the beneficiary is terminally ill and progressing in a manner that a physician would reasonably conclude that the beneficiary's life expectancy is months or less.

Importance of Descriptive Narratives in Clinical Records

Descriptive information completes the picture started with check-based assessments. Comparative information establishes longitudinal decline and may indicate decline suggestive of terminal status.

Each Clinical Note must be able to stand alone and show how the patient remains terminally ill or it may appear the patient has stabilized, becomes chronically ill and requires discharge planning to occur. Failure to document a distinct different will result in payment denial for a month, certification period or even an entire admission.

Surveyors appear to be focusing on severe, unrelenting symptoms as a basis for terminal status/medical necessity. Examples include: dyspnea at rest in patients with COPD or heart failure; and dysphagia with aspiration pneumonia in patients with dementia. Inconsistency decreases the clinical record's credibility in the eyes of reviewers and makes it harder for those trying to identify the patient's true clinical status and to defend your claims. Examples of inconsistency include:

- PPS assessments not supported by other assessment data in the clinical record
- Incorrectly applied FAST assessments and/or scores not supported by other assessment data
- Disparity between physician narratives and clinical information in the clinical record
- Lack of consistency in recording weights, anthropomorphic measurements, other objective data
- Absent or inconsistent data for a specific LCD has the appearance of disregard for or lack of awareness of the LCD which can also send up red flags.

Decline is inherent to the dying process in most diseases and most hospice staff are attuned to documenting the slightest signs. But decline is also associated with chronic conditions and advanced age. In denial statements, reviewers often state there is evidence of decline, but deny the claim because terminal status is not established.

Nursing narratives repeated verbatim across Clinical Notes, IDG Notes, and Plans of Care can have the effect of reducing credibility of documented assessments and narratives. This also may contribute to a clinical picture of stability for the patient. Documentation must support the patient's decline. Each Clinical Note must show evidence of signs and symptoms of decline despite optimal care.

Document using International Classification of Functioning: impairments in function, activity limitations, participation limitations, and communication impairment. Include in narrative documentation information about how so morbid conditions and secondary conditions affect the patient's decline. Consider ways to document which systems of the body are in a terminal condition.

Allow documentation to describe changes in a patient's health status. Compare historical assessment data with current assessment data and changes in the patient's functional status from the past to the most current assessment.

Clinical Notes from all disciplines should demonstrate a consistent picture of terminal. Avoid vague statements such as: "slow decline," "disease progressing." The more objective the documentation, the better. Remember: Hospice is for those needing true "skilled palliation of end of life symptomatology".

How To Document Decline In Hospice Patients

David Kirk



How To Document Decline In Hospice Patients:

How To Document Decline In Hospice Patients: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous engrossing novels enthralling the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have charmed audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This heartfelt tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. How To Document Decline In Hospice Patients : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids absorbing storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. How To Document Decline In Hospice Patients : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and thrilling novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

<https://staging.conocer.cide.edu/book/book-search/fetch.php/francois%20mauriac%20a%20study%20of%20the%20writer%20and%20the%20man.pdf>

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