Phase Assessments

Funded under the National Palliative Care Program and is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

www.pcoc.org.au
Phase Assessment

Phase is used to describe the distinct stage in the patient’s journey.

Phases are classified according to the clinical need of the patient and their family and carers.
Phase Assessment

- Stable
- Unstable
- Deteriorating
- Terminal
- Post Death Support
Stable: Start

Patient problems and symptoms are adequately controlled by established plan of care

and

Further interventions to maintain symptom control and quality of life have been planned

and

Family/carer situation is relatively stable and no new issues are apparent
The needs of the patient and/or family/carer increase, requiring changes to the existing plan of care.
Unstable: Start

• An urgent change in the plan of care or emergency treatment is required because

  Patient experiences a new problem that was not anticipated in the existing plan of care, and/or
  Patient experiences a rapid increase in the severity of a current problem; and/or
  Family/ carers circumstances change suddenly impacting on patient care
The new plan of care is in place, it has been reviewed and no further changes to the plan of care are required. This does not necessarily mean that the symptom/crisis has fully resolved but there is a clear diagnosis and plan of care (ie patient is stable or deteriorating)

and/or

Death is likely within days (ie patient is terminal)
Deteriorating: Start

The plan of care is addressing anticipated needs but requires periodic review because

Patients overall functional status is declining and

Patient experiences a gradual worsening of existing problem and/or

Patient experience a new but anticipated problem and/or

Family/carer experiences gradual worsening distress that impacts on the patient care
Deteriorating: End

- Patient condition plateaus (ie patient is stable)
- An urgent change in the plan of care or emergency treatment
  and/or
- Family/carers experience a sudden change in their situation that impacts on patient care, and urgent intervention is required (ie patient is unstable)
  or
- Death is likely within days (ie patient is terminal)
Terminal

Start

Death is likely within days

End

Patient dies

or

Patient condition changes and death is no longer likely within days (ie patient is stable or deteriorating)
Post Death Support

**Start**

- The patient has died

**Bereavement support provided to family/carers is documented in the deceased patients clinical record**

**End**

- Case closure

- Note: If counselling is provided to a family member or carer, they become a client in their own right
Phase Assessment & Documentation

A minimum of daily in the inpatient setting

At contact in consultative or community setting (phone or face-to-face assessment)
Thank You

For further information please view the resources contained in the PCOC Assessment Toolkit, go to www.pcoc.org.au or contact your Quality Improvement Facilitator.