

| START | END |
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| Stable | Stable |
| <p>Patient problems and symptoms are adequately controlled by established plan of care and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <p>The needs of the patient and or family/carer increase, requiring changes to the existing plan of care.</p> |
| Unstable | Unstable |
| <p>An urgent change in the plan of care or emergency treatment is required because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new plan of care is in place, it has been reviewed and no further changes to the care plan 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 now terminal) |
| Deteriorating | Deteriorating |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The care plan 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 experiences a new but anticipated problem and/or • Family/carers experience gradual worsening distress that impacts on the patient care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient condition plateaus (ie patient is now stable) or • An urgent change in the care plan 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 now unstable) or • Death is likely within days (ie patient is now terminal) |
| Terminal | Terminal |
| <p>Death is likely within days</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient dies or • Patient condition changes and death is no longer likely within days (ie patient is now stable or deteriorating) |
| Bereavement — post death support | Bereavement — post death support |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient has died • Bereavement support provided to family/carers is documented in the deceased patient's clinical record | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case closure <p>Note: If counselling is provided to a family member or carer, they become a client in their own right.</p> |

Note: The revised phase definition is currently undergoing an inter-rater reliability assessment til June 2013.