



**CEDAR VALLEY  
HOSPICE**

# COMMON GIP SYMPTOMS & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

## PAIN

- At home, pain was out of control despite medication changes
- Thorough and complete pain assessment(s)
- Medication adjustments, interventions and response
  - √ Route, titration, use of prn, frequency
- Use of any complimentary therapies and response

## RESPIRATORY DISTRESS

- Breath sounds / or lack of
- Uncontrolled secretions / frequent need for suctioning
- Severity of dyspnea
- Associated tachypnea
- Cough with evidence of symptoms such as anorexia, nausea, vomiting, exhaustion, rib fracture, Musculo-skeletal pain
- Anxiety level
- Difficulty sleeping / sleeping position
- Restlessness
- Elevation of head of bed
- Inability to complete a sentence without gasping
- Multiple nebulizer treatments

## NAUSEA / VOMITING / DIARRHEA

- Nausea, diarrhea intractable at home with current anti-emetic or anti-diarrhea regime
- Assessment of nausea / diarrhea and interventions
- Frequency, amount, type of emesis or diarrhea
- Complaints of nausea without emesis
- Effects of diarrhea on skin integrity
- Hydration status

## AGITATION

- Description of patient behaviors
- Need for presence to control
- Effect of agitation on patient and family
- Amount, frequency, and effectiveness of medication required to control agitation

*Continued on other side*

# COMMON GIP SYMPTOMS & REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

## INSOMNIA

- Lowered pain threshold
- Sleep patterns
- Assessment of psychosocial history

## ASCITES

- Respiratory compromise
- Diuretic history and response
- Response to paracentesis (if applicable)
- Abdominal girth
- Other edema

## IMMINENT DEATH

- Terminal restlessness
  - ✓ Agitation
  - ✓ Delirium
  - ✓ Hallucinations
- Clinical signs and symptoms of imminent death
- Inability for family to cope with the patient dying at home
  - ✓ Psychological interventions
  - ✓ Spiritual interventions

## FLUID OVERLOAD

- Position of patient
- Oxygen needs
- Amount of dyspnea
- Edema (amount and location)
- Difficulty sleeping at night
- Cardiac status

## WOUND CARE DOCUMENTATION

- Type of wound
- Painful
- Malodorous
- Disfiguring
- Frequent dressing changes
- Description of wound
- Medication(s) required prior to dressing changes
- Dressing changes and other treatments
- Patient's response to treatments, dressing changes

## FAMILY CAREGIVER TEACHING

- Caregiver needs to learn new modality

### DOCUMENTATION:

- Caregiver's willingness to learn
- Modifications to plan of care to adapt into a home setting
- Actual caregiver teaching provided and level of understanding