

## ADULT FAILURE TO THRIVE/ DEBILITY, UNSPECIFIED

Medicare considers Debility, unspecified an appropriate diagnosis for hospice patients when a current weight is unobtainable to obtain a body mass index. When body mass index is not met, Debility, un-specified may be used for patients who meet the general hospice criteria.

The patient must meet the criteria in number's 1 and 2 to use the 'Adult Failure to Thrive' ICD-9-CM code 783.7 and to be considered appropriate for admission to hospice. An admission weight must be obtained to use Adult Failure to Thrive on admission. Measurements/observations for criteria in number's 1 and 2 must be made within 6 months of the most recent certification or recertification.

### 1. Nutritional impairment as evidenced by a Body Mass Index (BMI) below 22 kg/m<sup>2</sup>

**Formula for calculating BMI:**

$$\text{BMI} = 703 \times (\text{weight in pounds}) / (\text{height in inches})^2$$

Current weight = \_\_\_\_\_ Current height = \_\_\_\_\_

Current BMI = \_\_\_\_\_ kg/m<sup>2</sup> (Use Chart)

Patient is either declining enteral/parenteral nutritional support or has not responded to such nutritional support despite adequate caloric intake.

### 2. Significant disability as evidenced by a Karnofsky (Page 2) or Palliative Performance Scale Value (PPS) less than or equal to 40%.

Current Karnofsky or PPS = \_\_\_\_\_ %.

### 3. Recumbent Anthropometry: Include as many measurements as you are able to obtain.

- Current calf circumference \_\_\_\_\_ cm.
- Current midarm circumference \_\_\_\_\_ cm.
- Current triceps skinfold thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mm.
- Current subscapular skinfold thickness \_\_\_\_\_ mm.
- Current midarm muscle area \_\_\_\_\_ cm<sup>2</sup>.

(Use Nomogram)

#### Recertification Only

At the time of recertification, recumbent anthropometry measurements may be substituted for BMI with documentation as to why BMI could not be measured. (i.e. patient in pain, immobility, availability of scale, etc.). These will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Unable to obtain BMI due to:

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4. If unable to obtain weight on admission, Adult Failure to Thrive cannot be used. Debility, Unspecified can be used with documentation to support why Adult Failure to Thrive was not appropriate. (i.e. unable to obtain admission weight due to:, BMI > 22 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, Karnofsky >40%).

Unable to use Adult Failure to Thrive due to:

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WORKSHEET FOR DETERMINING PROGNOSIS – ADULT FAILURE TO THRIVE

This worksheet is designed as a fact-finding tool and is not intended to be used to formulate diagnoses

## KARNOFSKY PERFORMANCE STATUS SCALE DEFINITIONS RATING (%) CRITERIA

Able to carry on normal activity and to work; no special care needed.	100	Normal no complaints; no evidence of disease
	90	Able to carry on normal activity; minor signs or symptoms of disease
	80	Normal activity with effort; some signs or symptoms of disease
Unable to work; able to live at home and care for most personal needs; varying amount of assistance needed.	70	Cares for self; unable to carry on normal activity or to do active work.
	60	Requires occasional assistance, but is able to care for most of his personal needs.
	50	Requires considerable assistance and frequent medical care.
Unable to care for self; requires equivalent of institutional or hospital care; disease may be progressing rapidly.	40	Disabled; requires special care and assistance.
	30	Severely disabled; hospital admission is indicated although death not imminent.
	20	Very sick; hospital admission necessary; active supportive treatment necessary.
	10	Moribund; fatal processes progressing rapidly.
	0	Dead