Quality of Dying in End-Stage Renal Disease

DIALYSIS QUALITY OF DYING APGAR (QODA)

Physical (symptom management) dimensions:

1. **Pain** (during the last week of life)

0= severe & distressing pain
1= the pain distressed the patient somewhat
2= no pain, or the pain did not distress the patient

2. **Non-Pain symptoms** (last week of life)
i.e.: confusion, dyspnea, spiritual distress, etc.

0= severe & distressing symptom
1= the symptom distressed the patient somewhat
2= no symptom or the symptom did not distress the patient

Psychosocial (peace) dimensions:

3. **Advance care planning**

During the last week of life, to what extent were patient's wishes followed- regarding a course of treatment that focused on extending life as much as possible even if it meant more pain and discomfort - or, on a plan of care that focused on relieving pain and discomfort as much as possible even if it meant not living as long.

0= formal health care proxy or living will had *not* been completed, documented, or communicated to staff who managed the terminal care.
1= intermediate
2= formal health care proxy or living will had been completed, documented, and communicated to staff who managed the terminal care.

4. **Peace/Dignity**

During the last week of life, did the patient die on his/her own terms? (Consider the following information, if available):

Was the patient lucid, coherent, able to take leave of loved-ones or have them say good-bye, complete most of the desired tasks, attend to spiritual matters, die where the patient chose, and leave the family united?

0= mostly <u>not</u> peaceful/dignified
1= mostly peaceful/dignified – intermediate
2= peaceful/dignified

5. **Duration dimension**

Time – Dying was prolonged or brief?

0= prolonged - in that the dying period lasted 6 months or more. If dialysis was discontinued, then death occurred 3 weeks or more after the last dialysis treatment.
1= intermediate - in that the dying period (terminal period) was less than 6 months but more than 1 month. If dialysis discontinued, death occurred between 2 and 3 weeks after the last dialysis session.
2= brief - the dying took place in sleep/suddenly/ unexpectedly, or occurred within one month of being in a terminal state. If dialysis was discontinued, then death took place 2 weeks or less from the time of the last treatment.

TOTAL DIALYSIS QODA SCORE _____
*(Mark the score with an asterisk *, if some aspect was unusual and warrants a narrative)*