Pressure Sores Risk Assessment in Hospice Patients:
The Norton Pressure Sore Risk-Assessment Scale is used to evaluate patient’s risk factors for development of pressure ulcers.

The scale’s functionality is simple: Add up the values beside each parameter which apply to the patient. The total sum is the Norton Rating for that patient. Results may vary from 20 (minimum risk) to 5 (maximum risk).

Risk Assessment Scale:

Rating Scores:

- Very High Risk = < 10
- High Risk = 10-13
- Medium Risk = 14 - 17
- Low Risk = ≥ 18
Physical Condition:

- PPS ≥ 50% = 4 points
- PPS = 40% = 3 points
- PPS = 30% = 2 points
- PPS ≤ 20% = 1 point

Mental Condition:

- Orientation (Aware of person, place time, season) = 4 points
- Inattention (Difficulty focusing attention; easily distract; difficulty following conversation) = 3 points
- Disorganized thinking (incoherent; rambling or irrelevant to conversation; unclear; illogical flow of ideas) = 2 points
- Altered level of consciousness (Vigilant - startled easily to sound or touch; lethargic - repeatedly dozes off when being asked questions but responds to touch or voice; stuporous - very difficult to arouse and keep aroused during questioning; comatose - cannot be aroused = 1 point
- Psychomotor retardation (Unusually decreased level of activity (sluggishness, staring into space, sitting or lying in one position) = 0 points

Activity – Degree of Physical Activity:

- Ambulant, independent = 4 points
- Walks with help, limited extensive assistance = 3 points
- Chairbound, no weight bearing at all = 2 points
- Bedfast, does not get out of bud due to physical condition, NOT due to patient’s preference = 1 point

Mobility – Ability to Change and Control Body Position:

- Full, independent = 4 points
- Slightly impaired, uses assistive devices (canes, walkers, side rails) = 3 points
- Very limited, devices plus physical assistance = 2 points
- Total dependence = 1 point

Incontinence:

- No incontinence = 4 points
- Occasional = 3 points
- Usually urinary = 2 points
- Usually urinary and fecal = 1 point

Resources: Hospice Eligibility Tool Box, VII. Skin/Pressure Ulcer – Norton Pressure Sore Risk Assessment, ©2010 Gentiva Health Services, rev. 01/2012, 172-GTV.