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 not 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)*