

karnofsky performance scale pdf

karnofsky performance scale pdf: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Utilizing the Tool

Introduction

The karnofsky performance scale pdf is an essential resource widely used in oncology, palliative care, and clinical research to assess a patient's functional status and ability to carry out daily activities. This standardized scoring system provides healthcare professionals with a quantitative measure of a patient's overall well-being, which is crucial for treatment planning, prognostic evaluation, and monitoring disease progression. The availability of the Karnofsky Performance Scale in PDF format makes it accessible for clinicians, researchers, and students to review, print, and incorporate into their practice or studies.

In this article, we will delve into the origins of the Karnofsky Performance Scale, its significance in clinical settings, how to interpret its scores, and the benefits of utilizing the karnofsky performance scale pdf for documentation and communication purposes. Whether you are new to the scale or seeking to deepen your understanding, this comprehensive guide aims to provide valuable insights into this pivotal assessment tool.

Understanding the Karnofsky Performance Scale

What Is the Karnofsky Performance Scale?

The Karnofsky Performance Scale (KPS) is a numerical scale ranging from 0 to 100 that measures a patient's ability to perform ordinary tasks and their level of independence. Developed in 1949 by Dr. David A. Karnofsky and colleagues, this scale has become a cornerstone in oncology and palliative care for evaluating patient functionality.

The scores reflect a patient's physical capacity, with higher scores indicating better functioning. It helps clinicians determine prognosis, decide on appropriate treatment options, and evaluate responses to therapy.

The Significance of the Scale in Clinical Practice

The KPS offers several benefits in medical settings:

- **Prognostic Indicator:** Higher KPS scores are generally associated with better survival outcomes.
- **Treatment Decision-Making:** Assists in selecting suitable therapies based on patient functional status.
- **Monitoring Disease Progression:** Tracks changes over time to assess disease impact or treatment efficacy.
- **Research Applications:** Standardizes patient assessment in clinical trials and studies.

The Structure and Scoring of the Karnofsky Performance Scale

Score Range and Descriptions

The KPS is divided into intervals, each associated with a descriptive statement about the patient's ability to perform daily activities:

Score	Description
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
70	Cares for self but unable to carry on normal activity or do active work
60	Requires occasional assistance but can care for most needs
50	Requires considerable assistance and frequent medical care
40	Disabled; requires special care and assistance
30	Severely disabled; hospitalization indicated but death not imminent
20	Very sick; hospitalization necessary; active supportive treatment
10	Moribund; fatal processes progressing rapidly
0	Dead

Note: The scale allows for nuanced assessment, with fractional scores sometimes used for more precise evaluations.

How to Use the Scale

Assessing a patient's KPS involves clinical judgment, observation, and patient interviews. The clinician evaluates the patient's ability to perform daily activities, physical function, and overall health status to assign an appropriate score.

Here's a simplified process:

1. Observe the patient's physical and mental status.
2. Determine the level of independence in activities like self-care, mobility, and work.
3. Match these observations with the descriptive statements associated with the scores.
4. Assign the most appropriate score reflecting overall function.

Advantages of Using a karnofsky performance scale pdf

Accessibility and Convenience

Having the scale in PDF format offers multiple benefits:

- Easy Distribution: Share with colleagues and students.
- Printable: Use physical copies during bedside assessments.
- Digital Integration: Incorporate into electronic health records (EHR).

Standardization and Consistency

Using a standardized PDF ensures uniformity in assessments across different providers and institutions, leading to more reliable data collection and analysis.

Educational Resource

PDF documents serve as excellent learning materials for medical students, residents, and healthcare professionals seeking to familiarize themselves with the scale.

How to Find and Use a karnofsky performance scale pdf

Sources for Reliable PDFs

You can access the karnofsky performance scale pdf from reputable sources such as:

- Medical journal repositories
- Oncology association websites
- Academic institution resources
- Clinical guidelines publications

Always ensure that the PDF is up-to-date and sourced from credible organizations to guarantee accuracy.

Steps to Utilize the PDF Effectively

1. Download the PDF from a trusted source.
2. Review the scoring descriptions thoroughly.
3. Incorporate it into your clinical documentation or educational materials.
4. Use it during patient assessments to maintain consistency.
5. Keep a copy accessible for future reference or training.

Limitations and Considerations

While the Karnofsky Performance Scale is valuable, it has limitations:

- Subjectivity: Scores depend on clinician judgment, which may vary.
- Patient Variability: Different patients may interpret questions differently.
- Not Disease-Specific: The scale assesses general functionality but does not account for disease-specific symptoms.
- Ceiling and Floor Effects: Very high or very low functioning patients may fall outside the scale's sensitivity.

To mitigate these issues, clinicians often use the KPS in conjunction with other assessment tools.

Complementary Scales and Alternatives

Other performance and quality-of-life assessment tools include:

- Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) Performance Status: Simpler scale from 0 to 5.
- WHO Performance Status: Similar to ECOG, used internationally.
- Barthel Index: Focuses on activities of daily living.
- Functional Independence Measure (FIM): Used in rehabilitation settings.

Choosing the appropriate scale depends on clinical context, patient population, and specific assessment needs.

Conclusion

The karnofsky performance scale pdf is a vital resource for healthcare professionals involved in oncology, palliative care, and research. Its straightforward scoring system provides a reliable measure of a patient's functional status, which is essential for prognosis, treatment planning, and monitoring. Having a well-designed PDF version facilitates easy access, standardization, and educational use, ultimately enhancing patient care quality.

By understanding the scale's structure, proper application, and limitations, clinicians can leverage this tool effectively. Whether integrated into electronic health records or used as a bedside assessment, the KPS remains a cornerstone in patient evaluation.

Remember, always ensure that the PDF you utilize is current and sourced from reputable organizations to maintain assessment accuracy and clinical relevance.

Additional Resources

- Download the latest karnofsky performance scale pdf from [Reputable Medical Organization]

Website].

- Review clinical guidelines that incorporate the KPS for comprehensive patient assessment.
- Engage in training modules or workshops to improve scoring consistency.

Keywords: Karnofsky Performance Scale, KPS PDF, performance assessment, oncology, patient functional status, clinical evaluation, medical documentation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Karnofsky Performance Scale and how is it used in clinical practice?

The Karnofsky Performance Scale (KPS) is a standardized tool used to assess a patient's functional status and ability to carry out daily activities. It is commonly used in oncology and palliative care to evaluate prognosis, determine treatment options, and monitor disease progression. The scale ranges from 0 (dead) to 100 (normal, no complaints), with specific descriptors for each level.

Where can I find a reliable PDF version of the Karnofsky Performance Scale?

Reliable PDF versions of the Karnofsky Performance Scale can typically be found on academic websites, medical institutions, or through healthcare organizations' resources. Official publications, research articles, and medical guidelines often include the scale as a downloadable PDF. Always ensure you access these documents from reputable sources to ensure accuracy.

How do I interpret the scores on the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF?

Scores on the Karnofsky Performance Scale indicate the patient's level of functioning: 100 means normal activity with no complaints; scores below 50 suggest significant disability requiring assistance; and scores around 0 indicate death. The PDF version usually provides detailed descriptions for each score to assist clinicians in accurate assessment.

Can the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF be used for research purposes?

Yes, the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF is widely used in research to quantify patient functional status, compare treatment outcomes, and stratify patient groups. Researchers often include the scale in their study protocols and data collection forms to ensure standardized assessment across studies.

Are there any limitations to using the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF?

While the KPS PDF provides a useful snapshot of patient function, it is subjective and relies on clinician judgment, which can introduce variability. It may not capture all aspects of a patient's health,

such as psychological or social factors. Therefore, it should be used alongside other assessment tools for a comprehensive evaluation.

How frequently should the Karnofsky Performance Scale be assessed using the PDF in patient care?

The frequency of assessment depends on the patient's condition and treatment plan. Typically, the scale is evaluated at baseline, during treatment, and at follow-up visits to monitor changes in functional status. The PDF version facilitates quick and standardized documentation during these assessments.

Is there an official downloadable PDF of the Karnofsky Performance Scale available online?

Yes, official PDFs of the Karnofsky Performance Scale can be found through reputable sources such as academic publications, medical societies, or hospital resources. It is important to verify the authenticity of the source to ensure the scale's accuracy and proper use in clinical or research settings.

Additional Resources

Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF: A Comprehensive Review and Expert Overview

The Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF is an essential tool in the realm of oncology, palliative care, and clinical research. It provides a standardized way to assess a patient's functional status, guiding treatment decisions, prognostic evaluations, and communication among healthcare professionals. This article offers an in-depth exploration of the Karnofsky Performance Scale, focusing on its PDF format, its applications, advantages, limitations, and how to effectively utilize this resource in clinical practice.

Understanding the Karnofsky Performance Scale (KPS)

What is the Karnofsky Performance Scale?

The Karnofsky Performance Scale (KPS) is a numerical scale developed in 1949 by David A. Karnofsky and Joseph H. Burchenal as a measure of a patient's ability to perform ordinary tasks and carry out daily activities. It assigns scores from 0 to 100 in increments of 10, with higher scores indicating better functional capacity. The scale helps clinicians gauge the severity of illness, evaluate treatment options, and predict patient outcomes.

KPS Score Range and Meaning:

- 100: Normal, no complaints; no signs of disease.

- 90: Able to carry on normal activity; minor symptoms.
- 80: Normal activity with some effort; some symptoms.
- 70: Cares for self; unable to carry on normal activity or do active work.
- 60: Requires occasional assistance but able to care for most personal needs.
- 50: Requires considerable assistance and frequent medical care.
- 40: Disabled; requires special care and assistance.
- 30: Severely disabled; hospitalization indicated.
- 20: Very sick; hospitalization necessary; active supportive treatment.
- 10: Moribund; fatal without treatment.
- 0: Dead.

This scale provides a quick, yet comprehensive, insight into the patient's functional status, which is crucial for personalized care planning.

The Role of the PDF Format in Utilizing the KPS

Why is a PDF Version Important?

Having a Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF offers numerous advantages:

- Standardization: Ensures consistent usage across different healthcare providers and institutions.
- Accessibility: Easily downloadable, printable, and sharable across various devices.
- Educational Tool: Useful for training new clinicians or students.
- Documentation: Acts as a record within electronic health records (EHR) systems.
- Integration: Can be embedded into clinical workflows, protocols, and research documentation.

The PDF format preserves the original layout, ensuring clarity and ease of use, especially when referencing detailed descriptions or scoring criteria.

Features of a Typical Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF

A well-designed KPS PDF generally includes:

- The full scale with detailed descriptions for each score.
- Visual aids such as tables or charts.
- Instructions for scoring.
- Notes on interpretation and clinical implications.
- Space for clinician annotations or patient notes.

Some PDFs also include additional resources, such as:

- Related prognostic tools.
- Guidelines for scoring in special populations.

- Links to further reading or validation studies.

In-Depth Analysis of the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF

Design and Usability

Effective PDFs are designed with user-friendliness in mind. They typically feature:

- Clear Layout: Segregated sections with headings, making it easy to navigate.
- Concise Descriptions: Brief, yet comprehensive, explanations for each score.
- Visual Aids: Color coding or icons to facilitate quick reference.
- Printable Format: High-resolution files suitable for both digital and paper documentation.
- Interactive Elements: Some advanced PDFs include fillable fields for clinicians to record scores directly.

The goal is to streamline the assessment process, minimizing errors and saving time.

Content Accuracy and Validation

High-quality KPS PDFs are based on validated versions of the scale, often incorporating updates or adaptations for specific populations. They reflect consensus guidelines and are aligned with current clinical practices. When evaluating a PDF, consider:

- Source credibility (e.g., peer-reviewed publications, reputable institutions).
- Inclusion of references or validation studies.
- Compatibility with clinical guidelines from organizations like the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

Customization and Adaptation

While the original Karnofsky Scale is standardized, PDFs can be tailored to specific contexts, such as:

- Pediatric assessments.
- Geriatric populations.
- Patients with specific diseases (e.g., neurological disorders).

Some PDFs include notes or annotations to aid in these adaptations, enhancing their flexibility.

Applications of the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF

Clinical Decision-Making

The KPS PDF serves as a practical tool for:

- Determining eligibility for aggressive therapies.
- Planning supportive care and palliative interventions.
- Assessing the risk-benefit ratio of treatments.

For example, patients with scores below 50 often require more supportive measures and may not tolerate intensive therapies.

Prognostic Evaluation

Numerous studies have demonstrated the correlation between KPS scores and survival outcomes. A lower score generally indicates poorer prognosis, guiding clinicians in discussing expectations with patients and families.

Research and Data Collection

In clinical trials, the KPS PDF provides a standardized method to quantify functional status, allowing for consistent data collection and analysis across study sites.

Communication and Documentation

Clear documentation of performance status facilitates interdisciplinary communication, ensuring everyone is aligned on patient capabilities and care plans.

Advantages of Using a Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF

- Standardization: Promotes uniformity in assessments.
- Ease of Use: Simplifies scoring with structured descriptions.
- Educational Value: Enhances training for new clinicians.
- Legal and Documentation Benefits: Serves as an official record in medical documentation.
- Facilitates Remote and Telehealth Assessments: Digital PDFs are accessible for clinicians conducting remote evaluations.

Limitations and Challenges of the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF

Despite its widespread use, the KPS PDF has limitations:

- Subjectivity: Scoring can vary between clinicians, influenced by experience and interpretation.
- Limited Sensitivity: May not detect subtle changes in functional status.
- Cultural and Population Differences: Descriptions may not fully capture nuances in diverse patient groups.
- Static Assessment: Provides a snapshot rather than dynamic monitoring unless regularly updated.

To mitigate these challenges, training and calibration sessions are recommended, along with supplementary assessment tools.

Best Practices for Utilizing the KPS PDF Effectively

- Consistent Training: Ensure clinicians are familiar with the scale's descriptions.
- Regular Reassessment: Perform serial evaluations to monitor changes.
- Combine with Other Tools: Use alongside quality-of-life questionnaires or symptom scales.
- Document Carefully: Record contextual notes that influence scoring.
- Customize When Necessary: Adapt descriptions for specific populations, but maintain core scoring principles.

Conclusion: The Value of the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF in Modern Medicine

The Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF remains a cornerstone in assessing patient functionality in oncology and palliative care. Its structured, standardized format enhances clinical decision-making, prognostication, and research integrity. With digital PDFs becoming increasingly accessible, it is easier than ever for healthcare providers to incorporate the scale into routine practice, ensuring consistent and objective assessments.

However, clinicians should recognize its limitations and complement it with other evaluation tools for a comprehensive understanding of patient health. Proper training, regular reassessment, and contextual interpretation are vital for maximizing its utility.

In essence, the Karnofsky Performance Scale PDF is not just a static document but a dynamic aid that,

when used judiciously, significantly enhances patient-centered care. Whether used as part of a multidisciplinary team or in solitary practice, it empowers clinicians to make informed, evidence-based decisions that improve patient outcomes and quality of life.

References & Resources:

- Karnofsky, D. A., & Burchenal, J. H. (1949). The clinical evaluation of chemotherapeutic agents in cancer. *Cancer*, 3(4), 634-656.
- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Guidelines.
- Downloadable and customizable Karnofsky Performance Scale PDFs from reputable medical websites and institutions.

Note: Always ensure the PDF version you use is up-to-date and validated for your specific clinical context.

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karnofsky performance scale pdf: Hospice and Palliative Medicine, An Issue of Physician Assistant Clinics, E-Book Donna Seton, Rich Lamkin, 2020-07-27 This issue of *Physician Assistant Clinics*, guest edited by Donna Seton and Rich Lamkin, is devoted to Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine. Articles in this issue include: Introduction to Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, The Role of the Physician Assistant in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Breaking Serious News: Communication in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Advance Care Planning and Goals of Care in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Palliative Care and Spirituality, Prognostic Tools in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Basics of Pain Management in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Dyspnea in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Gastrointestinal Symptoms in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Psychiatric Issues in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, Pediatric Palliative Care Basics in Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine, and more.

karnofsky performance scale pdf: Medical-Surgical Nursing - E-Book Sharon L. Lewis, Linda Bucher, Margaret M. Heitkemper, Mariann M. Harding, Jeffrey Kwong, Dottie Roberts, 2016-09-08 Awarded first place in the 2017 AJN Book of the Year Awards in the Medical-Surgical Nursing category. Learn how to become an exceptional caregiver in today's evolving healthcare environment! Written by a dedicated team of expert authors led by Sharon Lewis, *Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 10th Edition offers up-to-date coverage of the latest trends, hot topics, and clinical developments in the field. Completely revised and updated content explores patient care in various clinical settings and focuses on key topics such as patient safety, NCLEX exam preparation, evidence-based practice, and teamwork. A variety of helpful boxes and tables make it easy for you to find essential information and the accessible writing style and building-block approach make even the most complex concepts easy to grasp. Best of all — a complete collection of learning and study resources helps you learn more effectively and offers valuable, real-world preparation for clinical practice. Highly readable format offers you a strong foundation in medical-surgical nursing. Content written and reviewed by leading experts in the field ensures that information is comprehensive, current, and clinically accurate. Informatics boxes discuss how technology is used by nurses and patients in healthcare settings. Expanded coverage of evidence-based practice helps you understand how to apply the latest research to real-life patient care. Expanded Safety Alerts throughout the book highlight patient safety issues and focus on the latest National Patient Safety Goals. UNIQUE! Levels of Care approach explains how nursing care varies for different levels of health and illness.

Bridge to NCLEX Examination review questions at the end of each chapter reinforce key content while helping you prepare for the NCLEX examination with both standard and alternate item format questions. Unfolding case studies included throughout each assessment chapter help you apply concepts and procedures to real-life patient care. Managing Care of Multiple Patients case studies at the end of each section help you apply your knowledge of various disorders and prioritize and delegate patient care. Separate chapter on genetics focuses on the practical application to nursing care of patients. Genetics in Clinical Practice boxes address key topics such as genetic testing, Alzheimer's disease, sickle cell disease, and genetics-related ethical issues. Genetic Risk Alerts and Genetic Link headings highlight specific genetic issues related to body system assessments and disorders.

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karnofsky performance scale pdf: Management of Kidney Diseases Debasish Banerjee, Vivekanand Jha, Nicholas M.P. Annear, 2023-03-30 This book provides an evidence based guide to the management of common kidney conditions. Concise and highly structured chapters outline a diagnosis and treatment framework for kidney diseases encountered within daily practice. Particular attention is given to the management of chronic kidney disease, genetic kidney diseases, cardiovascular complications, haemodialysis, kidney cancer, peritoneal dialysis, and kidney transplantation. Management of Kidney Disease aims to improve outcomes for patients with kidney diseases and is relevant to trainee and practising nephrologists, as well as healthcare professional treating kidney diseases. Additional questions and answers via app: Download the Springer Nature Flashcards app free of charge and use exclusive additional material to test your knowledge.

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referenced and supported by evidence-based recommendations wherever possible, distinguishing between strong evidence to support a conclusion, and evidence suggesting that a recommendation can be reached on the balance of probabilities. This is a title in the Companion to Specialist Surgical Practice series whose eight volumes are an established and highly regarded source of information for the specialist general surgeon. The Companion to Specialist Surgical Practice series provides a current and concise summary of the key topics within each major surgical sub-specialty. Each volume highlights evidence-based practice both in the text and within the extensive list of references at the end of every chapter. An expanded authorship team across the series includes additional European and World experts with an increased emphasis on global practice. The contents of the series have been extensively revised in line with recently published evidence. A new chapter covers advances in breast reconstruction. The extended chapter on imaging includes the controversies surrounding breast screening. A more detailed discussion of the management of nipple discharge including ductoscopy is included in a new chapter. The dramatic changes on the management of the axilla and the controversial Z0011 trial are covered in a new chapter

karnofsky performance scale pdf: *Fast Facts for the Hospice Nurse, Second Edition* Patricia Moyle Wright, 2020-09-16 Provides comprehensive, current information for addressing the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of hospice patients and their families Substantially updated and expanded, the second edition of this quick-access reference for hospice nurses continues to deliver the most current information on the clinical and administrative duties of the hospice nurse. It encompasses important regulatory changes and milestones, providing timely information on cultural issues, special communication considerations, and hospice care's enduring growth. This resource provides new content on levels of care, assessment and symptom management, and occupational stress, burnout, and self-care. New treatment guidelines and algorithms are included, as are updates on quality measures, the reimbursement schedule, compliance initiatives, and electronic documentation with specific examples. An indispensable clinical resource, the book is a valuable reference for nurses who are seeking to specialize in hospice, those who work in long-term care settings, post-acute care settings, acute care setting, and those who are seeking to enhance their knowledge of end-of-life care within other specialties. New to the Second Edition: Includes new regulatory changes/milestones, such as The National Quality Forum New Priorities for Action 2019 Provides updated information about levels of care, particularly the Last 7 Days rule from Medicare Covers the use of cannabis, non-pharmacological pain management interventions, care of the dying patient, and post-mortem care New chapters are included on the hospice nurse's role as case manager, patient discharge, religious and cultural influences on end-of-life care, pain assessment and interventions, wound care, care of the dying patient, and post-mortem care. Key Features: Reflects key competencies for the hospice nurse as designated by the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Delineates clinical and administrative responsibilities of the hospice nurse Simplifies complex information such as Medicare regulations and compliance Provides screening tools for depression, anxiety, and wound risk Includes the Palliative Performance Scale and the Karnofsky Performance Scale Serves as a concise study resource for certification

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karnofsky performance scale pdf: *CHPN® Certification Review* Patricia Moyle Wright, 2025-04-24 The second edition of CHPN® Certification Review is designed to help you prepare for

the HPNA certification exam. This comprehensive study aid is organized according to the latest exam content outline and covers the full spectrum of hospice and palliative care nursing topics. Chapters include learning objectives, key points, and case studies to reinforce key topics and help you retain your knowledge. Each chapter covers everything you need to know to pass the exam and includes fully updated end-of-chapter questions to check your knowledge. The review concludes with a full-length practice test to get you ready for exam day. With a total of 300 unique questions, detailed review content and answer rationales, this essential review empowers you with the tools and materials to study your way and the confidence to pass the first time, guaranteed! Key Features Reflects the latest HPNA exam blueprint Provides a comprehensive yet concise review of essential knowledge for the exam Features valuable case studies to help reinforce key exam topics and enhance clinical judgment skills Highlights learning objectives and key points to promote knowledge retention Includes end-of-chapter Q&A and a full practice test with detailed rationales Boosts your confidence with a 100% pass guarantee

karnofsky performance scale pdf: Cancer Nursing Connie Henke Yarbro, Debra Wujcik, Barbara Holmes Gobel, 2016-09-19 Cancer Nursing: Principles and Practice, Eighth Edition continues as the gold standard in oncology nursing. With contributions from the foremost experts in the field, it has remained the definitive reference on the rapidly changing science and practice of oncology nursing for more than 25 years. Completely updated and revised to reflect the latest research and developments in the care of patients with cancer, the Eighth Edition includes new chapters on the biology of cancer, sleep disorders, and palliative care across the cancer continuum. The Eighth Edition also includes significant updates to the basic science chapters to reflect recent increases in scientific knowledge, especially relating to genes and cancer. Also heavily revised are the sections devoted to the dynamics of cancer prevention, detection, and diagnosis, as well as treatment, oncologic emergencies, end of life care, and professional and legal issues for oncology nurses.

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karnofsky performance scale pdf: End-of-Life Care in Cardiovascular Disease Sarah J. Goodlin, Michael W. Rich, 2014-10-08 End-of-life issues in cardiology are becoming increasingly important in the management of patients in the cardiac unit, but there is frequently a lack of understanding regarding their impact on cardiology practice. The cardiac unit is increasingly becoming the location whereby a number of key clinical decisions relating to end-of-life care are being made, such as the decision to remove medications, the appropriate removal of cardiac devices, the management of do not resuscitate orders and the requirement for other cardiac procedures in light of the management of the terminally ill cardiac patients. Those working in palliative care need input from the cardiovascular team as the cardiologist is frequently still managing these patients until they are moved to the hospice. That this move into a hospice is often delayed until the very last moment, there is considerable onus on the cardiovascular management of these patients to be much broader in scope and take account of some of the more palliative medical decisions needed in this group of patients. This concise reference will detail the practical issues open to cardiovascular physicians and those medical professionals who manage patients reaching the end of their life from a cardiology perspective. It will detail the full management options open to them to ensure that their

practice is in line with the requirements of the patient nearing the end of their life whether the cause be cardiovascular in origin or who need appropriate management of secondary cardiovascular symptoms. It will also include the various ethical, cultural and geographical issues that need to be considered when managing these patients.

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