

SWAN Psychosocial Assessment Guide

SWAN AREAS	ISSUES TO ASSESS BY PSYCHOSOCIAL AREA
1. Care Needs/Safety Concerns	Current and changing care needs, ability to perform ADLs, obstacles to patient safety, need for additional resources or alternative placement, current and potential future caregiver limits, need for help with planning, impaired decision making or need for capacity screening, risk or existence of abuse/neglect/exploitation, need for intervention or referral to APS/CPS.
2. Financial Needs	Need for financial assistance and referral to internal agency or community resources.
3. Awareness and Understanding of Prognosis	Knowledge and understanding of prognosis, disease process, issues of denial, and acceptance of hospice care and philosophy. Need/desire for accurate information, EOL education, and facilitation of open discussion/meeting.
4. Sense of Well Being/Adjustment	Quality of life issues, ability to enjoy regular activities, impact of illness on lifestyle, sense of autonomy and control, satisfaction with environment and living situation, preferred place of death, regrets, unfinished business, fulfillment of needs/desires for intimacy including sexual expression. Anxiety related to terminal illness, physical decline, loss of independence, need for caregivers or alternative living arrangements, fear of burdening others, and fear of impending death. Intense sadness or depression. Current and past coping, any past trauma impacting current situation. Need for relaxation and anxiety reduction techniques, supportive counseling and EOL education.
5. Interpersonal Issues and Level of Social Support	Family dynamics/conflict, existing support system, mental health issues, factors that impede healthy communication, divergent expectations, substance abuse issues, isolation, available emotional support, and desire for resolution/reconciliation.
6. Coping Related to Loss and Anticipatory Grief	Emotional factors related to impending death: guilt, anger, unresolved issues, past loss, and past trauma impacting current grief. Paradox of holding on and letting go, impending changes to the family system, ability to acknowledge the reality of death and to share the pain of grief. Coping strategies, need for EOL education, counseling and support.

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7. Suicidal Ideation and Potential for Suicide Risk	Identify presence of suicidal ideation and distinguishing between the readiness for life to end and the desire for an end to suffering. Finding of risk results in completion of Suicide Risk Assessment and planned interventions.
8. Cultural Values	Identify, seek understanding of, honor, educate, and advocate for needs related to beliefs and cultural values. May include communication style and preferences, space, role of family members and special traditions. Address cultural, religious, familial organization/processes and preferences related to issues such as pain control, decision making, and death.
9. Decision Making and Advance Planning	Need/desire for information, education and assistance with healthcare options such as advance planning and decision making, advance directives, final arrangements and other legal issues.