

## Standard Nomenclatures & Procedures for

# Critical Illnesses

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### 1. CANCER OF SPECIFIED SEVERITY

- I. A malignant tumor characterized by the uncontrolled growth & spread of malignant cells with invasion & destruction of normal tissues. This diagnosis must be supported by histological evidence of malignancy & confirmed by a pathologist. The term cancer includes leukemia, lymphoma and sarcoma.
- II. The following are excluded -
  - Tumors showing the malignant changes of carcinoma in situ & tumors which are histologically described as premalignant or non invasive, including but not limited to: Carcinoma in situ of breasts, cervical dysplasia CIN-1, CIN -2 & CIN-3.
  - Any skin cancer other than invasive malignant melanoma.
  - All tumors of the prostate unless histologically classified as having a Gleason score greater than 6 or having progressed to at least clinical TNM classification T2N0M0.....
  - Papillary micro - carcinoma of the thyroid less than 1 cm in diameter.
  - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia less than RAI stage 3.
  - Micro carcinoma of the bladder.
  - All tumors in the presence of HIV infection.

### 2. FIRST HEART ATTACK - OF SPECIFIED SEVERITY

- I. The first occurrence of myocardial infarction which means the death of a portion of the heart muscle as a result of inadequate blood supply to the relevant area. The diagnosis for this will be evidenced by all of the following criteria:
  - A history of typical clinical symptoms consistent with the diagnosis of Acute Myocardial Infarction (for e.g. typical chest pain)
  - New characteristic electrocardiogram changes
  - Elevation of infarction specific enzymes, Troponins or other specific biochemical markers.
- II. The following are excluded:
  - Non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI) with elevation of Troponin I or T
  - Other acute Coronary Syndromes
  - Any type of angina pectoris.

### 3. OPEN CHEST CABG

- I. The actual undergoing of open chest surgery for the correction of one or more coronary arteries, which is/are narrowed or blocked, by coronary artery bypass graft (CABG). The

diagnosis must be supported by a coronary angiography and the realization of surgery has to be confirmed by a specialist medical practitioner.

II. The following are excluded:

- Angioplasty and/or any other intra-arterial procedures
- Any key-hole or laser surgery.

#### **4. OPEN HEART REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR OF HEART VALVES**

The actual undergoing of open-heart valve surgery is to replace or repair one or more heart valves, as a consequence of defects in, abnormalities of, or disease-affected cardiac valve(s). The diagnosis of the valve abnormality must be supported by an echocardiography and the realization of surgery has to be confirmed by a specialist medical practitioner. Catheter based techniques including but not limited to, balloon valvotomy /valvuloplasty are excluded.

#### **5. COMA OF SPECIFIED SEVERITY**

I. A state of unconsciousness with no reaction or response to external stimuli or internal needs. This diagnosis must be supported by evidence of all of the following:

- No response to external stimuli continuously for at least 96 hours;
- Life support measures are necessary to sustain life; and
- Permanent neurological deficit which must be assessed at least 30 days after the onset of the coma.

II. The condition has to be confirmed by a specialist medical practitioner. Coma resulting directly from alcohol or drug abuse is excluded.

#### **6. KIDNEY FAILURE REQUIRING REGULAR DIALYSIS**

End stage renal disease presenting as chronic irreversible failure of both kidneys to function, as a result of which either regular renal dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) is instituted or renal transplantation is carried out. Diagnosis has to be confirmed by a specialist medical practitioner.

#### **7. STROKE RESULTING IN PERMANENT SYMPTOMS**

I. Any cerebro-vascular incident producing permanent neurological sequelae. This includes infarction of brain tissue, thrombosis in an intracranial vessel, hemorrhage and embolization from an extra-cranial source. Diagnosis has to be confirmed by a specialist medical practitioner and evidenced by typical clinical symptoms as well as typical findings in CT scan or MRI of the brain. Evidence of permanent neurological deficit lasting for at least 3 months has to be produced.

II. The following are excluded:

- Transient ischemic attacks (TIA)
- Traumatic injury of the brain

- Vascular disease affecting only the eye or optic nerve or vestibular functions.

## **8. MAJOR ORGAN /BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT**

I. The actual undergoing of a transplant of:

- One of the following human organs: heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas, that resulted from irreversible end-stage failure of the relevant organ, or
- Human bone marrow using hematopoietic stem cells. The undergoing of a transplant has to be confirmed by a specialist medical practitioner.

II. The following are excluded:

- Other stem-cell transplants
- Where only islets of Langerhans are transplanted

## **9. PERMANENT PARALYSIS OF LIMBS**

Total and irreversible loss of use of two or more limbs as a result of injury or disease of the brain or spinal cord. A specialist medical practitioner must be of the opinion that the paralysis will be permanent with no hope of recovery and must be present for more than 3 months.

## **10. MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE WITH PERMANENT SYMPTOMS**

Motor neuron disease diagnosed by a specialist medical practitioner as spinal muscular atrophy, progressive bulbar palsy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or primary lateral sclerosis. There must be progressive degeneration of cortico-spinal tracts and anterior horn cells or bulbar efferent neurons. There must be current significant and permanent functional neurological impairment with objective evidence of motor dysfunction that has persisted for a continuous period of at least 3 months.

## **11. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WITH PERSISTING SYMPTOMS**

I. The definite occurrence of multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis must be supported by all of the following:

- Investigations including typical MRI and CSF findings, which unequivocally confirm the diagnosis to be multiple sclerosis;
- There must be current clinical impairment of motor or sensory function, which must have persisted for a continuous period of at least 6 months, and well documented clinical history of exacerbations and remissions of said symptoms or neurological deficits with at least two clinically documented episodes at least one month apart.
- Other causes of neurological damage such as SLE and HIV are excluded.