

Toolkit for palliative care needs in children: Clinical assessment checklist



To ensure a standardised approach across different healthcare settings, professionals are encouraged to use this four-step checklist during routine reviews or when a child's condition changes:

Assign a category

Identify the pattern of vulnerability (category a, b, or c) that best describes the child's underlying condition.

The graded surprise question

Use prognostic horizons (month, 6 months, 1 year, or adulthood) to gauge risk and trigger appropriate discussions and planning.

Consider the current phase of care

Determine the child's clinical state to decide what actions and resources may be needed.

Identify triggers for specialist input

Decide if the child's needs (such as complex symptom management or complex ethical decisions) now exceed the capability of the local core team.

Scan the QR code for more helpful tools:

