

**A/B MAC JURISDICTION M**

*North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Home Health and Hospice*



**PALMETTO GBA®**

A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

<DATE>

< Provider Name>

< Provider Street Address>

< Provider City, State, Zip Code>

Dear Physician/Practitioner:

This letter is to inform you that the Medicare Fee-For-Service program will begin the Home Health Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) program in your state beginning on September 30, 2019. The RCD program is scheduled to last for 5 years. The demonstration requires home health agencies to select one of three medical review options. Regardless of the option chosen, there are no changes to documentation requirements for home health services.

**What You Need to Know**

It is important to keep in mind that the Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) does not create new documentation requirements for physicians/practitioners or suppliers. **As the ordering physician/practitioner, you are required to supply to the home health agency or beneficiary, face-to-face encounter visit notes as well as any other documentation that supports medical necessity for the home health care services ordered.**

To qualify for the Medicare home health care benefit, the patient must:

- Be confined to the home;
- Under the care of a physician;
- Receiving services under a plan of care established and periodically reviewed by a physician;
- Be in need of skilled nursing care on an intermittent basis or physical therapy or speech-language pathology; or have a continuing need for occupational therapy and;
- Have a face-to-face encounter with a medical provider as mandated by the Affordable Care Act for the initial episode of care.

**Physician Responsibility**

If you are the certifying/referring physician for a Medicare patient, and plan to order/refer home health care services, it is imperative that patient medical records include comprehensive clinical assessment data.

For further information on the Home Health RCD visit <https://www.PalmettoGBA.com/RCD>. The Palmetto GBA website provides information about the program and requirements, frequently asked questions, and educational opportunities pertaining to RCD. If you should have any questions concerning the RCD program please contact our Provider Contact Center at 1-855-696-0705 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Sincerely,

Palmetto GBA

Provider Outreach and Education

