

July 27, 2016

We IMPACT lives.

Dear Certifying Physician:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Medicare Fee-For-Service Program will begin a Pre-Claim Review (PCR) Demonstration for Home Health Services in the state of Illinois for home health episodes of care that begin on or after August 1, 2016. Home Health Agencies (HHAs) must acquire and submit medical records to receive PCR decisions before the final claim is filed to Medicare.

What You Need to Know

It is important to keep in mind that the PCR demonstration does not create new documentation requirements for certifying physicians – it simply requires the documentation to be submitted prior to the HHAs submitting the final claim. **As the certifying physician, you have a responsibility to provide the medical record documentation that supports the certification of patient eligibility for the Medicare home health benefit.**

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

- Be confined to the home;
- Be under the care of a physician;
- Be 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;
- Have a face-to-face encounter with an allowed provider type as mandated by the Affordable Care Act.

Your Responsibility

If you are the certifying 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 and are submitted to the HHA in a timely manner. Please refer to the following resources about certifying patients for the Medicare home health benefit.

- Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Matters SE1436, “Certifying Patients for the Medicare Home Health Benefit” - <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1436.pdf>
- MLN Matters® MM9119, “Manual Updates to Clarify Requirements for Physician Certification and Recertification of Patient Eligibility for Home Health Services” - <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9119.pdf>

For additional information on the Home Health Pre-Claim Review demonstration, visit the CGS website at <http://www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/index.html> and select “Pre-Claim Review Demonstration for Home Health Services” under the “Hot Topics” list. You will find information about the demonstration as well as resources available on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Sincerely,

Provider Outreach and Education
CGS