



July 27, 2016

*We IMPACT lives.*

Dear Home Health Agency:

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) will need to submit medical records to receive PCR decision before the final claim is filed to Medicare.

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.

The PCR request may be submitted by the HHA or the Medicare beneficiary. Regardless of who submits the request, both will receive a letter advising whether the services are provisionally affirmed or non-affirmed. If a HHA does not submit a PCR request, the final claim will be subject to pre-payment review. If no PCR request is submitted and the final claim is determined through pre-payment medical review to be payable, it will be paid with a 25 percent reduction of the claim amount. **Note:** Final claims submitted without a PCR request during the first three months of the demonstration will not be subject to the payment reduction.

### **Your Responsibility**

It is imperative that patient medical records include comprehensive clinical assessment data. Please refer to the following resources about certifying patients for the Medicare home health benefit.

- Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Ch. 7 - <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c07.pdf>
- Medicare Learning Network® (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

