

# Provider's Guide to Home Care & Hospice Requirements

## Affordable Care Act – New Regulations for Home Health Care & Hospice

Beginning in April of 2011, a new face-to-face encounter requirement will be implemented nationally as a result of the Affordable Care Act (March 2010). This regulation requires physicians to have a face-to-face encounter with the patient prior to issuing a certification for home health services. In addition, a hospice physician or nurse practitioner is required to have a face-to-face encounter with the hospice patient at the 180th day, and for each subsequent 60 day recertification.

### Home Care Face to Face Requirements

- Physicians must perform a face-to-face encounter with the home health patient 90 days prior to or 30 days after starting home health care. **Goshen Home Care & Hospice will require this encounter form upon referral.**
- A face-to-face encounter is only required on first time certification of home health patients, not re-certifications.
- A NP or PA may perform the exam, however the supervising physician is required to be the certifying practitioner (complete and sign the documentation).
- The encounter form must contain documentation stating the qualifying reason for home health services. The clinical reason must support eligibility.
  - Patient must be "homebound" to qualify (ie, needing special transportation, assistance of another individual and/or assistive devices to leave home, or if leaving home exacerbates symptoms).
  - The physician must certify that the patient is homebound.
- Visit documentation must be signed and dated by the physician. **NO Standardized language is allowed on these forms.**
- Hospitalists may perform face-to-face encounters, but must:
  - Identify the primary care physician who will oversee the patient's home health care.
  - Document in a separate section or addendum Sign and date the encounter form

### Hospice Face-to-Face Requirements

- Hospice physician or nurse practitioner must have a face-to-face encounter with a patient prior to the 180th day and subsequent recertification.
- Hospice physician/NP must attest to the face-to-face encounter having taken place.

### Physician Billing for Services Related to Home Health

G0180 – Initial Certification of Home Health Care

G0179 – Re-Certification of Home Health Care

G0181 – Care Plan Oversight of Home Health Care

- One physician per month may bill – attending physician who signs the plan of care
- Services may be provided by a NP or PA
- Physician, NP or PA must have provided 30 minutes of service in one calendar month
- Physician must have had face-to-face encounter within 6 months of billing G0181
- Services must be documented by physician, NP or PA in the patient chart

### Goshen Hospital implementation

Goshen Home Care and Hospice will require an encounter form upon referral .

Encounter forms can be downloaded at [GoshenQuickGuide.com](http://GoshenQuickGuide.com), click on "Hospital Departments" then "Home Care" or by contacting Goshen Home Care & Hospice.

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Goshen Home Care  
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