

**Subject: Home Health Care for Commercial and Medicare****Medical Policy #: 47.0****Status: Reviewed****Original Effective Date: 01-26-2022****Last Review Date: 02/07/2024**

## Disclaimer

Refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage. This may not be a benefit on all plans or the plan may have broader or more limited benefits than those listed in this Medical Policy.

## Description

### BACKGROUND

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides new tools to enhance CMS's efforts to prevent and detect fraud in its programs. For example, the ACA requires certain categories of providers with an increased risk for fraud, such as home health agencies (HHAs), to comply with enhanced fraud-prevention provisions. Among other steps, the ACA requires that physicians (or certain practitioners working with them) who certify beneficiaries as eligible for Medicare home health services document—as a condition of payment for home health services—that face-to-face encounters with those beneficiaries occurred.

### Medicare Requirements for Home Health Services

Medicare beneficiaries who are generally confined to their homes may be eligible to receive certain medical services at home.<sup>1</sup> These home health services include part-time or intermittent skilled nursing care, physical and/or occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, medical social services, and part-time or intermittent home health aide (HHA) services.<sup>2</sup> To qualify for home health services, Medicare beneficiaries must (1) be homebound; (2) need intermittent skilled nursing care, physical therapy or speech therapy, or continuing occupational therapy; (3) be under the care of a physician; and (4) be under a plan of care that has been established and periodically reviewed by a physician. For each 60-day episode of care that a beneficiary receives from an HHA, Medicare makes a standardized payment. For the HHA to receive that payment, a physician must certify the beneficiary's initial need for home health services and homebound status and must recertify the need at least every 60 days.<sup>1</sup>

### Intermittent Skilled Nursing and/or Therapy Services

The Social Security Act defines "part-time or intermittent services" as "skilled nursing care that is either provided or needed on fewer than 7 days each week or less than 8 hours of each day for periods of 21 days or less."<sup>1</sup> The skilled nursing care must be provided by a registered nurse or licensed practical (vocational) nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse.<sup>4</sup> Home health aide services may include personal care, such as bathing and dressing; feeding; and simple dressing changes that do not require the skills of a licensed nurse.<sup>1</sup>

Therapy services must be performed by a qualified therapist or therapy assistant under the supervision of a qualified therapist.<sup>1</sup>

### Requirement To Be Under the Care of a Physician

Medicare requires that to be eligible for home health services, beneficiaries be under the care of a Doctor of Medicine, osteopathy, or podiatric medicine. As of April 1, 2011, CMS began requiring full compliance with the requirement that the certifying physician or clinician have a face-to-face encounter with the beneficiary as a condition of payment for home health care.

### Established Plan of Care

Medicare pays for home health services only if they are provided under a plan of care that a physician establishes and periodically reviews.<sup>1</sup> The physician must review, sign, and date the plan at least once every 60 days.<sup>1</sup> If a beneficiary does not receive at least one covered skilled nursing visit, physical therapy visit, speech-language pathology service visit, or occupational therapy visit within the 60-day episode, CMS considers the plan to be terminated.

### Face-to-Face Requirement

For the initial home health episode of care only, the certifying physician must document a face-to-face encounter with the patient.<sup>1</sup> The HHA must obtain documentation that the face-to-face encounter with the patient occurred and that the encounter was related to the primary reason the beneficiary needs home health care. If the certifying physician does not complete the documentation correctly, CMS can deny the HHA payment because the face-to-face requirement is a Medicare condition of payment.<sup>1</sup> CMS holds the HHA financially accountable for ensuring that the documentation from the physician meets the applicable criteria.

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> [Social Security Act, § 1814\(a\)\(2\)\(C\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Social Security Act, § 1861 Home Health Services \(m\)](#); or CMS, Pub. No. [100-02, CH. 7, § 40](#).

<sup>3</sup> [42 CFR § 424.22](#)

<sup>4</sup> Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [ch. 7, § 10.3](#)

<sup>5</sup> Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [ch. 7, § 40.1.1](#)

<sup>6</sup> Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [ch. 7, § 50.2](#)

<sup>7</sup> Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [ch. 7, §§ 40.2–40.2.4.3](#)

<sup>8</sup> Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [ch. 7, § 30.2 thru 30.2.10](#)

<sup>9</sup> Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [ch. 7, § 30.5.1.1](#)

# Coverage Determination

## Certification:

**Timing and signature.** The certification of need for home health services must be obtained at the time the plan of care is established or as soon thereafter as possible and must be signed and dated by the physician or allowed practitioner who establishes the plan. It is not acceptable for Home Health Agencies to wait until the end of a 60-day episode of care to obtain a completed certification, also verbal orders are not allowed during Certification/Recertification phase.

In accordance to [CFR § 424.22\(a\)\(1\)-Requirements for home health services](#) and the [30.5.1 Physician or Allowed Practitioner Certification](#), a certification (versus recertification) is considered to be anytime that a Start of Care (SOC) OASIS is completed to initiate care. In such instances, a physician or allowed practitioner must certify (attest) that:

1. The home health services are or were needed because the patient is or was **confined to the home** as defined in §30.1.1; Telehealth can be performed to determine that a member cannot leave home due to medical contraindication and needs skilled services, he or she will be considered homebound and qualify for the Medicare Home Health Benefit.
2. The **patient needs or needed skilled nursing services** on an intermittent basis or physical therapy, or speech-language pathology services. Where a patient's sole skilled service need is for skilled oversight of unskilled services (management and evaluation of the care plan as defined in §40.1.2.2), the physician or allowed practitioner must include a brief narrative describing the clinical justification of this need as part of the certification, or as a signed addendum to the certification;
3. A **plan of care has been established and is periodically reviewed by a physician or allowed practitioner**;
4. The services are or were furnished while the patient is or was **under the care of a physician or allowed practitioner**;
5. **Face-to-Face patient encounter:**
  - occurred no more than 90 days prior to the home health Start of Care (SOC) date **or** within 30 days of the start of the home health care,
  - was related to the primary reason the patient requires home health services, and
  - must be performed by the certifying physician or allowed practitioner himself or herself, a physician or allowed practitioner that cared for the patient in the acute or post-acute care facility (with privileges who cared for the patient in an acute or post-acute care facility from which the patient was directly admitted to home health) or a certified nurse midwife or physician assistant under the supervision of the certifying physician or the acute/post-acute care physician.

In situations when a physician or allowed practitioner orders home health care for the patient based on a new condition that was not evident during a visit within the 90 days prior to Start of Care (SOC), the physician or an allowed NPP must see the patient again within 30 days after admission. Specifically, if a patient saw the physician or NPP within the 90 days prior to Start of Care (SOC), another encounter would be needed if the patient's condition had changed to the extent that standards of practice would indicate that the physician or a non-physician practitioner should examine the patient in order to establish an effective treatment plan.

**Telehealth:** The face-to-face encounter can be performed via a telehealth service, in an approved originating site. An originating site is considered to be the location of an eligible member at the time the service being furnished via a telecommunications system occurs. Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for telehealth services only if they are presented from an originating site located in a rural health professional shortage area or in a county outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area. Telehealth cannot be the members home as an originating site.

## Recertification:

In accordance to [CFR § 424.22\(a\)\(1\)-Requirements for home health services](#) and [30.5.2 Physician or Allowed Practitioner Recertification](#), Timing and signature of recertification. Recertification is required at least every 60 days when there is a need for continuous home health care after an initial 60-day episode. Recertification should occur at the time the plan of care is reviewed and **must be signed and dated by the physician or allowed practitioner who reviews the plan of care.**

Recertification is required at least every 60 days unless there is a:

- A beneficiary transfer to another HHA; **or**
- Discharge with goals met and/or no expectation of a return to home health care.

For recertification of home health services, the physician or allowed practitioner must certify (attest) that:

1. The home health services are or were needed because the patient is or was confined to the home as defined in §30.1;
2. The patient needs or needed skilled nursing services on an intermittent basis (other than solely venipuncture for the purposes of obtaining a blood sample), or physical therapy, or speech-language pathology services; or continues to need occupational therapy after the need for skilled nursing care, physical therapy, or speech-language pathology services ceased. Where a patient's sole skilled service need is for skilled oversight of unskilled services (management and evaluation of the care plan as defined in §40.1.2.2), the physician or allowed practitioner must include a brief narrative describing the clinical justification of this need as part of the recertification, or as a signed addendum to the recertification.
3. A plan of care has been established and is periodically reviewed by a physician or allowed practitioner; and
4. The services are or were furnished while the patient is or was under the care of a physician or allowed practitioner.

Medicare does not limit the number of continuous 60-day recertifications for beneficiaries who continue to be eligible for the home health benefit. The certification may cover a period less than but not greater than 60 days. Because the updated home health plan of care must include the frequency and duration of visits to be made, the physician or allowed practitioner does not have to estimate how much longer skilled services will be needed for the recertification.

## Homebound Status:

Per [§1814\(a\)](#) and [§1835\(a\)](#) of the Act, an individual shall be considered “confined to the home” for a patient to be eligible to receive covered home health services under both Part A and Part B, the law requires that a physician or allowed practitioner to certify in all cases that the patient is confined to his/her home. For purposes of the statute, an individual shall be considered “confined to the home” (homebound) when “**Criterion One**” and “**Criterion Two**” outlined in Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services, [Section 30.1.1 - Patient Confined to the Home](#) are met.

**All home health services beyond initial visits for evaluation purposes, require prior approval. Logon to Pres Online to submit a request:** <https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

- I. **Home Health Agency (HHA) Initial Assessment Visit** [42 CFR §484.55\(a\)\(1-2\)](#) Condition of participation:  
Comprehensive assessment of patients.

**Initial assessment visit does not require Prior Authorization.**

1. **Orders:** As stated in Medicare Policy Manual, [Ch 7, section 30.2.3 the specificity of orders](#) on the plan of care must indicate the type of services to be provided to the patient, both with respect to the professional who will provide them and the nature of the individual services, as well as the frequency of the services. A physician or an allowed practitioner can order home health services. Section 1861(m) of the Social Security Act requires that the home health plan of care be established and maintained by a physician to initiate Home Health Care. Allowed practitioners in addition to physicians, can certify and recertify beneficiaries for eligibility, order home health services, and establish and review the care plan, as stated in [Medicare Policy Manual chapter 7 section 30.2.1](#) – Definition of an Allowed Practitioner; allowed practitioners are defined at [§ 484.2](#) as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist as defined at this part. NPs, CNSs, and PAs are required to practice in accordance with state law in the state in which the individual performs such services.
2. **Comprehensive assessment of patients.** Each patient must receive, and an HHA must provide, a patient-specific, comprehensive assessment. For Medicare beneficiaries, the Home Health Agency must verify the patient's eligibility for the Medicare home health benefit including homebound status, both at the time of the initial assessment visit and at the time of the comprehensive assessment. For the following see [42 CFR §484.55\(a-c\)](#)
  - a. A registered nurse must conduct an **initial assessment visit** to determine the immediate care and support needs of the patient; and, for Medicare patients, to determine eligibility for the Medicare home health benefit, including homebound status. The initial assessment visit must be held either within 48 hours of referral, or within 48 hours of the patient's return home, or on the physician or allowed practitioner-ordered Start of Care (SOC) date. The **completion of the comprehensive assessment** must be completed in a timely manner, consistent with the patient's immediate needs, but no later than 5 calendar days after the Start of Care (SOC).
  - b. When rehabilitation therapy service (speech language pathology, physical therapy, or occupational therapy) is the **only** service ordered by the physician who is responsible for the home health plan of care, and if the need for that service establishes program eligibility, the **initial assessment visit** may be made by the appropriate rehabilitation skilled professional. A physical therapist, speech-language pathologist or occupational therapist may **complete the comprehensive assessment**, and for Medicare patients, determine eligibility for the Medicare home health benefit, including homebound status. The occupational therapist may complete the comprehensive assessment if the need for occupational therapy establishes program eligibility.
  - c. **Content of comprehensive assessment:** The comprehensive assessment must accurately reflect the patient's status. See 42 CFR §484.55(c) for complete description.

**NOTE:** As indicated in CMS manual [100-02, Ch.7. 70.2](#). When personnel of the agency make such an initial evaluation visit, the cost of the visit is considered an administrative cost of the agency and is not chargeable as a visit since at this point the patient has not been accepted for care. If, however, during the course of this initial evaluation visit, the patient is determined suitable for home health care by the agency and is also furnished the first skilled service as ordered under the physician or allowed practitioner's plan of care, the visit would become the first billable visit in the 30-day period.

3. **Documentation Requirements:** Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Ch7, Home Health Services, Physician or Allowed Practitioner Certification and Recertification of Patient Eligibility for Medicare Home Health Services, see [30.5.1.2 Supporting Documentation Requirements](#), (Rev. 10438, Issued: 11-06-20, Effective: 03-01-20, Implementation: 01-11-21).

The certifying physician or allowed practitioner and/or the acute/post-acute care facility medical record (if the patient was directly admitted to home health) for the patient must contain information that justifies the referral for Medicare home health services. This includes documentation that substantiates the patient's:

- a) Need for the skilled services; and
- b) Homebound status;

Must contain the actual clinical note for the face-to-face encounter visit that demonstrates that the encounter:

- c) Occurred within the required timeframe,
- d) Was related to the primary reason the patient requires home health services; and
- e) Was performed by an allowed provider type.

This information can be found most often in clinical and progress notes and discharge summaries. While the face-to-

face encounter must be related to the primary reason for home health services, the patient's skilled need and homebound status can be substantiated through an examination of all submitted medical record documentation from the certifying physician or allowed practitioner, acute/post-acute care facility, and/or HHA (see below). The synthesis of progress notes, diagnostic findings, medications, nursing notes, etc., help to create a longitudinal clinical picture of the patient's health status.

The [Content of the Plan of Care, 30.2.2, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Ch 7](#): For HHA services to be covered, the individualized plan of care must specify the services necessary to meet the patient-specific needs identified in the comprehensive assessment. In addition, the plan of care must include the identification of the responsible discipline(s) and the frequency and duration of all visits as well as those items listed in [42 CFR 484.60\(a\)](#) that establish the need for such services. All care provided must be in accordance with the plan of care.

See also regulations at [42 CFR 424.22\(c\)](#), which supports 30.5.1.2 – Supporting Documentation Requirements as mentioned above. The documentation from the certifying physicians or allowed practitioner's medical record or the acute/post-acute care facility's medical records (if the patient was directly admitted to home health) or both must be used as the basis for certification of the patient's eligibility for home health as described in paragraphs (a)(1) and (b) of this section. Documentation from the HHA may also be used to support the basis for certification of home health eligibility, but only if the following requirements are met:

Information from the HHA must be corroborated by other medical record entries and align with the time period in which services were rendered.

- Must review and sign off on anything incorporated into the patient's medical record that is used to support the certification of patient eligibility (that is, agree with the material by signing and dating the entry).
- Information from the HHA, such as the plan of care required per [42 CFR §409.43](#) and the initial and/or comprehensive assessment of the patient required per [42 CFR §484.55](#), can be incorporated into the certifying physician or allowed practitioner's medical record for the patient and used to support the patient's homebound status and need for skilled care.

The documentation must be provided upon request to review entities or CMS or both. If the documentation used as the basis for the certification of eligibility is not sufficient to demonstrate that the patient is or was eligible to receive services under the Medicare home health benefit, payment is not rendered for home health services provided.

## II. Home Health Agency (HHA) Initial Service Request

**Prior Authorization is required upon completion of certification. Logon to Pres Online to submit a request:**

<https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

1. **Orders:** a physician or an allowed practitioner can order home health services. Section 1861(m) of the Social Security Act requires that the home health plan of care be established and maintained by a physician to initiate HHC is needed from physician. Medicare Policy Manual chapter 7 section 30.2.1 – Definition of an Allowed Practitioner; allowed practitioners are defined at § 484.2 as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist as defined at this part. NPs, CNSs, and PAs are required to practice in accordance with state law in the state in which the individual performs such services.
  - a. [42 CFR §484.55\(a\)\(1-2\)](#) Comprehensive assessment of patients, initial assessment visit.
2. **Home Bound:** Attending provider signed home bound status per CMS 2 criteria in 30.1.1
  - a. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c07.pdf>
  - b. Per [§1814\(a\)](#) and [§1835\(a\)](#) of the Act, an individual shall be considered "confined to the home" for a patient to be eligible to receive covered home health services
  - c. The patient may be considered homebound if absences from the home are, infrequent; for periods of relatively short duration; for the need to receive health care treatment; for religious services; to attend adult daycare programs; or for other unique or infrequent events (e.g. funeral, graduation, trip to the barber).
3. **Care Plan Certification:** Attending provider signed or Voice order counter signed by accepting Home Health RN and submitted to PHP for medical necessity review.
  - a. [CFR 484.60](#) Condition of participation: Care planning, coordination of services, and quality of care. *Standard Plan of care:* Each patient must receive the home health services that are written in an individualized plan of care that identifies patient-specific measurable outcomes and goals, and which is established, periodically reviewed, and signed by a Doctor of Medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry or allowed practitioner acting within the scope of his or her state license, certification, or registration.
  - b. **Recertification for Home Health Services** – initial certification period lasts 60 days or 9 weeks, (see above under the section for Recertification, for details or see [Ch 7, 30.5.2](#))
4. **Therapeutic services: For rehabilitative services provided by physical therapy (PT), speech therapy (ST) and occupational therapy (OT).** See section (VIII) below to review Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and related Local Coverage Articles (LCA) (using the MCG Website) for ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity.
5. **Verbal orders:** [Policy Manual Chapter 7, 30.2.6 - Use of Oral \(Verbal\) Orders](#) (Rev. 10438, Issued: 11-06-20, Effective: 03-01-20, Implementation: 01- 11-21)  
When services are furnished based on a physician or allowed practitioner's oral order, the orders may be accepted and put in writing by personnel authorized to do so by applicable State and Federal laws and regulations as well as by the HHA's internal policies. The orders must be signed and dated with the date of receipt by the registered nurse

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage [MPMPPC051001].

or qualified therapist (i.e., physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, or medical social worker) responsible for furnishing or supervising the ordered services. The orders may be signed by the supervising registered nurse or qualified therapist after the services have been rendered, as long as HHA personnel who receive the oral orders notify that nurse or therapist before the service is rendered. Thus, the rendering of a service that is based on an oral order would not be delayed pending signature of the supervising nurse or therapist. Oral orders must be countersigned and dated by the physician or allowed practitioner before the HHA bills for the care in the same way as the plan of Care

Services which are provided from the beginning of the initial 60-day certification period and before the physician or allowed practitioner signs the plan of care are considered to be provided under a plan of care established and approved by the physician or allowed practitioner where there is a verbal order for the care prior to rendering the services which is documented in the medical record and where the services are included in a signed plan of care.

Services that are provided following the initial 60-day certification period are considered provided under the plan of care of the recertification 60-day episode where there is a verbal order before the services provided in the subsequent period are furnished and the order is reflected in the medical record. However, services that are provided after the expiration of the plan of care, but before the acquisition of a verbal order or a signed plan of care are not considered provided under a plan of care.

6. **Nursing:** Review Local Coverage Determinations and Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services
  - a. 40.1 - Skilled Nursing Care (Rev. 179, Issued: 01-14-14, Effective: 01-07-14, Implementation: 01-07-14) A3-3118.1, HHA-205.1
  - b. Local Coverage Determination (LCD) [L35125](#)- Wound Care, the related article LCA ([A53001](#)).
7. **Home Health Aide:** Review Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services. 50.2 - Home Health Aide Services (Rev. 1, 10-01-03) A3-3119.2, HHA-206.2
8. **Documentation Requirements:** (Please see section (I.3) above)

### III. Home Health Agency (HHA) Extension (Recertification) Request

**Prior Authorization is required upon completion of recertification. Logon to Pres Online to submit a request:**  
<https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

1. **Care plan recertification:** a physician or an allowed practitioner can order home health services. Section 1861(m) of the Social Security Act requires that the home health plan of care be established and maintained by a physician to initiate HHC is needed from physician. Medicare Policy Manual chapter 7 section 30.2.1 – Definition of an Allowed Practitioner; allowed practitioners are defined at § 484.2 as a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist as defined at this part. NPs, CNSs, and PAs are required to practice in accordance with state law in the state in which the individual performs such services.
  - a. See Recertification section above or see 30.5.2 Physician or Allowed Practitioner Recertification, for guidelines on recertification when nearing the end of the initial 60-day certification.
2. **Update of the comprehensive assessment:** In accordance to [42 CFR §484.55\(d\)](#) the comprehensive assessment must be updated and revised (including the administration of the OASIS) as frequently as the patient's condition warrants due to a major decline or improvement in the patient's health status, but not less frequently than –
  1. The last 5 days of every 60 days beginning with the Start of Care (SOC) date, unless there is a -
    - a. Beneficiary elected transfer;
    - b. Significant change in condition; or
    - c. Discharge and return to the same HHA during the 60-day episode.
  2. Within 48 hours of the patient's return to the home from a hospital admission of 24 hours or more for any reason other than diagnostic tests, or on physician or allowed practitioner-ordered resumption date;
  3. At discharge.
3. **Home Bound:** Attending provider signed homebound status per CMS 2 criteria
  - a. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c07.pdf>
  - b. Home Health Services Section 30.1.1 - Patient Confined to the Home -Homebound.
4. **Care Plan:** Attending provider signed or Voice order counter signed by accepting Home Health RN and submitted to PHP for medical necessity review.
  - a. CFR 484.60 Condition of participation: Care planning, coordination of services, and quality of care. *Standard Plan of care:* Each patient must receive the home health services that are written in an individualized plan of care that identifies patient-specific measurable outcomes and goals, and which is established, periodically reviewed, and signed by a Doctor of Medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry or allowed practitioner acting within the scope of his or her state license, certification, or registration.
  - b. Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 7, 30.2.6 - Use of Oral (Verbal) Orders (Rev. 10438, Issued: 11-06-20, Effective: 03-01-20, Implementation: 01- 11-21)
  - c. Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 7, 30.5
5. **Therapeutic services: For rehabilitative services provided by physical therapy (PT), speech therapy (ST) and occupational therapy (OT).** See section (VIII) below to review Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and related Local Coverage Articles (LCA) (using the MCG Website) for ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity.

6. **Verbal orders:** Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 7, 30.2.6 - Use of Oral (Verbal) Orders (Rev. 10438, Issued: 11-06-20, Effective: 03-01-20, Implementation: 01- 11-21)
  - a. Verbal orders are accepted with verbal order read back from the ordering provider, signed by a registered nurse, Occupational Therapist, speech therapist or Physical therapist
7. **Nursing:** Review Local Coverage Determinations and Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services
  - a. 40.1 - Skilled Nursing Care (Rev. 179, Issued: 01-14-14, Effective: 01-07-14, Implementation: 01-07-14) A3-3118.1, HHA-205.1
  - b. Local Coverage Determination (LCD) [L35125](#)- Wound Care, the related article LCA ([A53001](#)).
8. **Home Health Aide:** Review Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7 for Home Health Services. 50.2 - Home Health Aide Services (Rev. 1, 10-01-03) A3-3119.2, HHA-206.2
9. **Documentation Requirements:** (Please see section (I.3) above)

**IV. Full PHP Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP):**

**Prior Authorization is not required. Logon to Pres Online to submit a request:**

<https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

1. Home Health Agency (HHA) Initial Assessment Visit, (see above (I)).
  - a. Home Health Agency (HHA) Initial Service Request, (see above (II)).
  - b. Home Health Agency (HHA) Extension Request, (see above III).

**V. PHP Medicare only Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP):**

**Prior Authorization is not required. Logon to Pres Online to submit a request:**

<https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

1. Home Health Agency (HHA) Initial Assessment Visit, (see above (I)).
  - a. Home Health Agency (HHA) Initial Service Request, (see above (II)).
  - b. Home Health Agency (HHA) Extension Request, (see above III).

**VI. PHP NM Medicaid only Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP):**

1. Medicare servicing insurance requirement for NM Medicaid review.
  - a. Medicare denial. PHP needs a decision letter from Medicare servicing insurance to process request for possible NM Medicaid coverage under PHP Medical Policy [Medicaid Home Health Services, MPM 13.6](#)
  - b. Medicare partial denial. PHP needs a decision letter from Medicare servicing insurance to process request for possible NM Medicaid coverage PHP Medical Policy [Medicaid Home Health Services, MPM 13.6](#)
  - c. Medicare approval. PHP needs a decision letter from Medicare servicing insurance to process request for NM Medicaid coverage

**Note:** Documentation of an approved or denied services from Primary Medicare (not Presbyterian) insurance company is required.

**VII. PHP NM Medicaid only Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP) Extensions:**

1. Medicare servicing insurance requirement for NM Medicaid review.
  - a. Medicare denial. PHP needs a decision letter from Medicare servicing insurance to process request for possible NM Medicaid coverage under PHP Medical Policy [Medicaid Home Health Services, MPM 13.6](#)
  - b. Medicare partial denial. PHP needs a decision letter from Medicare servicing insurance to process request for possible NM Medicaid coverage PHP Medical Policy [Medicaid Home Health Services, MPM 13.6](#)
  - c. Medicare approval. PHP needs a decision letter from Medicare servicing insurance to process request for NM Medicaid coverage

**Note:** Documentation of an approved or denied services from Primary Medicare (not Presbyterian) insurance company is required.

**VIII. For therapeutic rehabilitative services provided by physical therapy (PT), speech therapy (ST) and occupational therapy (OT):**

Coverage of skilled rehabilitation services is contingent upon the member's need for skilled care. Please access MCG Website to review the applicable rehabilitative service Local Coverage Determinations and related Local Coverage Articles listed below for ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity.

**Initial Assessment: When rehabilitation therapy service** (speech language pathology, physical therapy, or occupational therapy) is the only service ordered by the physician who is responsible for the home health plan of care, and if the need for that service establishes program eligibility, the initial assessment visit may be made by the appropriate rehabilitation skilled professional.

**Completion of the comprehensive assessment:** When physical therapy, speech-language pathology, or occupational therapy is the only service ordered by the physician or allowed practitioner, a physical therapist, speech-language pathologist or occupational therapist may complete the comprehensive assessment, and for Medicare patients, determine

eligibility for the Medicare home health benefit, including homebound status. The occupational therapist may complete the comprehensive assessment if the need for occupational therapy establishes program eligibility.

1. LCD [L34564](#), Home Health Physical Therapy, related article LCA [A53058](#) Billing and coding: Home Health Physical Therapy and the listed ICD-10 codes that Support Medical Necessity.
  - a. Review the LCD for PT Evaluation and PT Re-evaluation, documentation requirements and other requirements.
  - b. Services are to be furnished according to a written plan of treatment determined by the physician.
  - c. Review Diagnosis specific CGMs for guidance for 50% visit numbers
2. LCD [L34560](#), Home Health Occupational Therapy, related article LCA [A53507](#) Billing and Coding: Home Health Occupational Therapy and the listed ICD-10 codes that Support Medical Necessity.
  - a. Review the LCD for OT Evaluation and OT Re-evaluation, documentation requirements and other requirements.
  - b. Services are to be furnished according to a written plan of treatment determined by the physician.
  - c. Review Diagnosis specific CGMs for guidance for 50% visit numbers
3. LCD [L34563](#), Home Health Speech-Language Pathology, related article LCA [A53052](#) Billing and Coding: Home Health Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and the listed ICD-10 codes that Support Medical Necessity
  - a. Review the LCD for SLP Evaluation and SLP Re-evaluation, documentation requirements and other requirements.
  - b. Services are to be furnished according to a written plan of treatment determined by the physician.
  - c. Review Diagnosis specific CGMs for guidance for 50% visit numbers

**Services not covered by Home Health:**

[Medicare Benefit Policy Manual \(CMS Pub. 100-02, Ch. 7 §80\)](#)

In addition to the general exclusions from coverage in the *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual*, ([Pub. 100-02, Ch. 16](#)), the following are also excluded from coverage as home health services:

- Drugs and biological (except where noted differently)
- The transportation of a patient
- Services that would not be covered if furnished as inpatient hospital
- Housekeeping services for which the sole purpose is to enable the patient to continue residing in their home (e.g., cooking, shopping, Meals on Wheels, cleaning, laundry)
- Services that are covered under the ESRD program
- Prosthetic items
  - **Note:** The *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* ([Pub. 100-02, Ch. 7, § 50.4.1.1](#)), states that medical supplies including catheters, catheter supplies, ostomy bags and supplies related to ostomy care furnished by an HHA are specifically excluded from the term "orthotics and prosthetics". These items are bundled while a patient is under a home health plan of care, and an HHA must furnish them to the patient, even if the HHA is not treating a condition/illness requiring these supplies
- Respiratory services

Dietary or nutrition services (If the HHA is performing a complete consult, these services can be included on the Medicare cost report as an administrative cost.)

**Coding**

The coding listed in this medical policy is for reference only. Covered and non-covered codes are within this list.

| CPT Codes | Care plan oversight   Training   Report of Location   |
|-----------|---|
| G0162     | Skilled services by a registered nurse (RN) for management and evaluation of the <b>plan of care</b> ; each 15 minutes (the patient's underlying condition or complication requires an RN to ensure that essential nonskilled care achieves its purpose in the home health or hospice setting)  |
| G0493     | Skilled services of a <b>registered nurse (RN)</b> for the <b>observation and assessment</b> of the patient's condition, each 15 minutes (the change in the patient's condition requires skilled nursing personnel to identify and evaluate the patient's need for possible modification of treatment in the home health or hospice setting).         |
| G0494     | Skilled services of a <b>licensed practical nurse (LPN)</b> for the <b>observation and assessment</b> of the patient's condition, each 15 minutes (the change in the patient's condition requires skilled nursing personnel to identify and evaluate the patient's need for possible modification of treatment in the home health or hospice setting) |
| G0495     | Skilled services of a registered nurse (RN), in the <b>training and/or education</b> of a patient or family member, in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes  |
| G0496     | Skilled services of a licensed practical nurse (LPN), in the <b>training and/or</b>   |

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage [MPMPPC051001].

| <b>CPT Codes</b> | <b>Care plan oversight   Training   Report of Location</b>   |
|------------------|--|
|                  | <b>education</b> of a patient or family member, in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes |
| Q5001            | Hospice or home health care provided in patient's home/residence                                       |

| <b>CPT Codes</b> | <b>General skilled nursing</b>  |
|------------------|---|
| G0299            | Direct skilled nursing services of a registered nurse (RN) in the home health or hospice setting  |
| G0300            | Direct skilled nursing of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the home health or hospice setting. |
| T1001            | Nursing assessment/evaluation   |
| T1002            | RN services, up to 15 minutes   |
| T1003            | LPN/LVN services, up to 15 minutes  |

| <b>CPT Codes</b> | <b>Home Health Certification/Recertification</b>  |
|------------------|---|
| G0179            | Physician or allowed practitioner re-certification for Medicare-covered home health services under a home health plan of care (patient not present), including contacts with home health agency and review of reports of patient status required by physicians and allowed practitioners to affirm the initial implementation of the plan of care |
| G0180            | Physician or allowed practitioner certification for Medicare-covered home health services under a home health plan of care (patient not present), including contacts with home health agency and review of reports of patient status required by physicians or allowed practitioners to affirm the initial implementation of the plan of care     |

| <b>CPT Codes</b> | <b>Home Health Physical Therapy LCD <a href="#">L34564</a>.</b>   |
|------------------|---|
| 97010            | Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; hot or cold packs   |
| 90712            | Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; traction, mechanica   |
| 97022            | Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; whirlpool   |
| 97024            | Application of a modality to 1 or more areas; diathermy (eg, microwave)   |
| 97116            | Therapeutic procedure, 1 or more areas, each 15 minutes; gait training (includes stair climbing)  |
| 97161            | Physical therapy evaluation: low complexity, requiring these components: A history with no personal factors and/or comorbidities that impact the plan of care; An examination of body system(s) using standardized tests and measures addressing 1-2 elements from any of the following: body structures and functions, activity limitations, and/or participation restrictions; A clinical presentation with stable and/or uncomplicated characteristics; and Clinical decision making of low complexity using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome. Typically, 20 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family  |
| 97162            | Physical therapy evaluation: moderate complexity, requiring these components: A history of present problem with 1-2 personal factors and/or comorbidities that impact the plan of care; An examination of body systems using standardized tests and measures in addressing a total of 3 or more elements from any of the following: body structures and functions, activity limitations, and/or participation restrictions; An evolving clinical presentation with changing characteristics; and Clinical decision making of moderate complexity using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome. Typically, 30 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family.    |
| 97163            | Physical therapy evaluation: high complexity, requiring these components: A history of present problem with 3 or more personal factors and/or comorbidities that impact the plan of care; An examination of body systems using standardized tests and measures addressing a total of 4 or more elements from any of the following: body structures and functions, activity limitations, and/or participation restrictions; A clinical presentation with unstable and unpredictable characteristics; and Clinical decision making of high complexity using standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment of functional outcome. Typically, 45 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family. |
| 97164            | Re-evaluation of physical therapy established plan of care, requiring these components: An examination including a review of history and use of standardized tests and measures is required; and Revised plan of care using a standardized patient assessment instrument and/or measurable assessment   |

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage [MPMPPC051001].

| <b>CPT Codes</b>   | <b>Home Health Physical Therapy LCD <a href="#">L34564</a></b>   |
|--|--|
|  | of functional outcome Typically, 20 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family.   |
| 97545  | Work hardening/conditioning; initial 2 hours   |
| 97546  | Work hardening/conditioning; each additional hour (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)  |
| G0151  | Services performed by a qualified physical therapist in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes  |
| G0157  | Services performed by a qualified physical therapist assistant in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes  |
| G0159  | Services performed by a qualified physical therapist, in the home health setting, in the establishment or delivery of a safe and effective physical therapy maintenance program, each 15 minutes |
| G2168  | Services performed by a physical therapist assistant in the home health setting in the delivery of a safe and effective physical therapy maintenance program, each 15 minutes                    |
| For a list of ICD-10 that support the listed codes above see Home Health Physical Therapy ( <a href="#">A53058</a> ) |  |

| <b>CPT Codes</b> | <b>Home Health Occupational Therapy (<a href="#">L34560</a>)</b>   |
|------------------|--|
| 90901            | Biofeedback train any meth   |
| 92526            | Oral function therapy  |
| 92610            | Evaluate swallowing function   |
| 95851            | Range of motion measurements   |
| 95852            | Range of motion measurements   |
| 96125            | Cognitive test by hc pro   |
| 97016            | Vasopneumatic device therapy   |
| 97018            | Paraffin bath therapy  |
| 97026            | Infrared therapy   |
| 97032            | Electrical stimulation   |
| 97033            | Electric current therapy   |
| 97034            | Contrast bath therapy  |
| 97035            | Ultrasound therapy   |
| 97110            | Therapeutic exercises  |
| 97112            | Neuromuscular reeducation  |
| 97124            | Massage therapy  |
| 97140            | Manual therapy 1/> regions   |
| 97165            | Ot eval low complex 30 min   |
| 97166            | Ot eval mod complex 45 min   |
| 97167            | Ot eval high complex 60 min  |
| 97168            | Ot re-eval est plan care   |
| 97530            | Therapeutic activities   |
| 97533            | Sensory integration  |
| 97535            | Self care mngment training   |
| 97537            | Community/work reintegration   |
| 97542            | Wheelchair mngment training  |
| 97750            | Physical performance test  |
| 97755            | Assistive technology assess  |
| 97760            | Orthotic mgmt&traing 1st enc   |
| 97761            | Prosthetic traing 1st enc  |
| 97763            | Orthc/prostc mgmt sbsq enc   |
| G0152            | Services performed by a qualified occupational therapist in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes  |
| G0158            | Services performed by a qualified occupational therapist assistant in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes  |
| G0160            | Services performed by a qualified occupational therapist, in the home health setting, in the establishment or delivery of a safe and effective occupational therapy maintenance program, each 15 minutes |
| G0283            | Electrical stimulation (unattended), to one or more areas for indication(s) other than wound care, as part of a therapy plan of care   |
| G2169            | Services performed by an occupational therapist assistant in the home health setting in the delivery of a safe and effective occupational therapy maintenance program, each 15 minutes                   |

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage [MPMPPC051001].

| CPT Codes  | Home Health Occupational Therapy ( <a href="#">L34560</a> ) |
|--|---|
| For a list of ICD-10 that support the listed codes above see <a href="#">Home Health Occupational Therapy (A53057)</a> |   |

| CPT Codes  | Home Health Speech Language Pathology  |
|--|--|
| 92507  | Speech/hearing therapy   |
| 92517  | Vemp test i&r cervical   |
| 92518  | Vemp test i&r ocular   |
| 92519  | Vemp tst i&r cervical&ocular   |
| 92521  | Evaluation of speech fluency   |
| 92522  | Evaluate speech production   |
| 92523  | Speech sound lang comprehen  |
| 92524  | Behavral qualit analys voice   |
| 92526  | Oral function therapy  |
| 92597  | Oral speech device eval  |
| 92607  | Ex for speech device rx 1hr  |
| 92608  | Ex for speech device rx addl   |
| 92609  | Use of speech device service   |
| 92610  | Evaluate swallowing function   |
| 92626  | Eval aud funcj 1st hour  |
| 92627  | Eval aud funcj ea addl 15  |
| 92630  | Aud rehab pre-ling hear loss   |
| 92633  | Aud rehab postling hear loss   |
| 92650  | Aep scr auditory potential   |
| 92651  | Aep hearing status deter i&r   |
| 92652  | Aep thrshld est mlt freq i&r   |
| 92653  | Aep neurodiagnostic i&r  |
| 96105  | Assessment of aphasia  |
| 96112  | Devel tst phys/qhp 1st hr  |
| 96113  | Devel tst phys/qhp ea addl   |
| 96116  | Nubhvl xm phys/qhp 1st hr  |
| 96121  | Nubhvl xm phy/qhp ea addl hr   |
| 96125  | Cognitive test by hc pro   |
| 97110  | Therapeutic exercises  |
| 97129  | Ther ivntj 1st 15 min  |
| 97130  | Ther ivntj ea addl 15 min  |
| 97530  | Therapeutic activities   |
| 97533  | Sensory integration  |
| 97535  | Self care mngment training   |
| G0153  | Hhpc-svs of s/l path,ea 15mn   |
| G0161  | Services performed by a qualified speech-language pathologist, in the home health setting, in the establishment or delivery of a safe and effective speech-language pathology maintenance program, each 15 minutes |
| For a list of ICD-10 that support the listed codes above see <a href="#">Home Health Physical Therapy (A53052)</a> |  |

| CPT Codes  | Home Health – Psychiatric Care (LCD <a href="#">L34561</a> )  |
|--|---|
| G0152  | Services performed by a qualified occupational therapist in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes                             |
| G0155  | Services of clinical social worker in home health or hospice settings, each 15 minutes  |
| G0156  | Services of home health/hospice aide in home health or hospice settings, each 15 minutes  |
| *G0299   | Services of home health/hospice aide in home health or hospice settings, each 15 minutes<br>*Code repeats                                   |
| *G0300   | Direct skilled nursing services of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes<br>*Code repeats |
| For a list of ICD-10 that support the listed codes above see Billing and Coding: Home Health - Psychiatric Care ( <a href="#">A56756</a> ) |   |

| CPT Codes | 1. Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer’s Disease and Behavioral Disturbances (LCD <a href="#">L34562</a> ) and<br>2. Home Health Plans of Care for Monitoring Glucose Control for Type II Diabetes Mellitus (LCD <a href="#">L35132</a> ) |
|-----------|---|
| *G0299    | Direct skilled nursing services of a registered nurse (RN) in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes   |

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member’s specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage [MPMPPC051001].

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>CPT Codes</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease and Behavioral Disturbances (LCD <a href="#">L34562</a>) and</b></li> <li><b>Home Health Plans of Care for Monitoring Glucose Control for Type II Diabetes Mellitus (LCD <a href="#">L35132</a>)</b></li> </ol> |
|   | *Code repeats   |
| *G0300  | Direct skilled nursing services of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the home health or hospice setting, each 15 minutes<br>*Code repeats   |
| <p>For a list of ICD-10 that support the listed codes above see related local coverage articles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">A56641 - Billing and Coding: Home Health Skilled Nursing Care-Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease and Behavioral Disturbances</a></li> <li><a href="#">A53050 - Case Scenario 1 Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease</a></li> <li><a href="#">A53051 - Case Scenario 2-Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease</a></li> <li><a href="#">A56674 - Billing and Coding: Home Health Plans of Care: Monitoring Glucose Control in the Medicare Home Health Population with Type II Diabetes Mellitus</a></li> </ol> |   |

## Reviewed by / Approval Signatures

**Population Health & Clinical Quality Committee:** [Gray Clarke MD](#)

**Senior Medicaid Medical Director:** [Jimmy Romero MD](#)

**Date Approved:** 02-07-2024

## References

- Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [Pub 100-02, Home Health Services, Ch 7](#) Refer to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7, §30.1 (Rev. 11447, 06-06-22). [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, [100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Covered Medical and Other Health Service](#), (Rev. 11447, 06-06-22) [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Manual (Publication 100-04), [Chapter 10 Home Health Agency Billing](#), of the Medicare Claims Processing, (Rev. 11966, 04-21-23) [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS Manual (Publication 100-08), [Chapter 6 - Medicare Contractor Medical Review Guidelines for Specific Services of the Medicare Program Integrity](#), (Rev. 10365, 10-02-20). (See [6.2 Medical Review of Home Health Services- Form 485/Plan of Care](#)) (Rev. 10184; Issued: 06-19-2020; Effective: 07-21-2020; Implementation: 07-21-2020). [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Official government booklet by [Medicare & Home Health Care](#), this is not a legal document. The information in this booklet describes the Medicare Program at the time this booklet was printed. Changes may occur after printing. Visit [Medicare.gov](#) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get the most current information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Home Health Plan of Care/Certification, [Clinical benefit templates](#) Page Last Modified: 09/06/2023. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, [Palmetto GBA, Home Health Physical Therapy, \(LCD \[L34564\]\(#\)\)](#), revision history date:04/27/2023, R23. Related article [A53058](#), revision history date: 10-01-2023, R19. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Home Health Occupational therapy, (LCD [L34560](#)), revision history date: 06/09/2022, R21. Related article ([A53057](#)) Billing and Coding: Home Health Occupational Therapy, revision history date: 10/01/2023, R19. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Home Health Speech-language pathology services, (LCD [L34563](#)), Revision history date: 05/11/2023, R17. Related article ([A53052](#)) Billing and Coding: Home Health Speech-Language Pathology, revision history date: 10/01/2023, R16. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- Respiratory Therapy Services: CMS, [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 12, Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitations Facility \(CORF\) Coverage](#), (Rev. 255, 01-25-19) or [CMS Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 5 - Part B Outpatient Rehabilitation and CORF/OPT Services](#) (Rev. 11129, 11-22-21) [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Home Health Nurses' Visits to Patients Requiring Heparin Injection, (NCD [290.2](#)), Effective 01/01/1966 – N/A, V1. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Institutional and Home Care Patient Education Programs (NCD [170.1](#)), V1, Longstanding NCD. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Home Health Psychiatric Care (LCD [L34561](#)), , Revision history date: 11/09/2023, R19, Related article ([A56756](#)), Original Effective Date, 08/01/2019, Revision effective Date: 11/09/2023, R6. [Cited 12/15/2023]
- CMS, Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease and Behavioral Disturbances

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage [MPMPPC051001].

(LCD [L34562](#)), Updated on 10/18/2019, R12. [Cited 12/15/2023]. Related local coverage articles:

- [A56641](#) Billing and Coding: Home Health Skilled Nursing Care-Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease and Behavioral Disturbances, Revision date 10/01/2023, R4.
  - [A53050](#) Case Scenario 1 Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease, Revision date: 10/01/2022, R5.
  - [A53051](#) Case Scenario 2-Home Health Skilled Nursing Care Teaching and Training: Alzheimer's Disease, Revision date: 10/01/2022, R6.
15. CMS, Home Health Surface Electrical Stimulation in the Treatment of Dysphagia (LCD [L34565](#)), Revision date: 11/30/2023, R11, Related coverage article ([A56648](#)), Revision date: 10/26/2023, R4. [Cited 12/15/2023]
  16. CMS, Home Health Plans of Care: Monitoring Glucose Control in the Medicare Home Health Population with Type II Diabetes Mellitus (LCD [L35132](#)), Revised: 09/30/2021, R15, related coverage article ([A56674](#)), revision date: 10/17/2019, R2. [Cited 12/15/2023]
  17. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 42, Chapter IV, Subchapter G, [Part 484 – Home Health Services](#), [86 FR 62422, Nov. 9, 2021, as amended at 88 FR 77879, Nov. 13, 2023] [Cited 12/15/2023]
  18. CMS, Quality, Safety & Oversight – Guidance to Laws & Regulations, [Home Health Agencies](#), Page Last Modified: 09/06/2023 04:51 PM. State Operations Manual, [Appendix B of the State Operations Manual \(PDF\)](#), (Rev. 200, 02-21-20). [Cited 12/15/2023]
  19. Novitas, Provider Specialty: Home Health, Resources, MLN, [Certifying Patients for the Medicare Home Health Benefit](#), Effective as of January 1, 2015. [Cited 12/15/2023]
  20. CMS, [Home Infusion Therapy Services Benefit Beginning January 2021, Frequently Asked Questions](#), Last updated June 2022. [Cited 12/15/2023]

## Publication History

- 01-26-2022 New policy specifically for Medicare and Commercial Home Health. Reviewed by PHP Medical Policy Committee on 01/14/2022.
- The policy follows Home Health Code of Federal Regulations (CFR); Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services program manuals; and Local Coverage Determination for related Physical Therapy, Occupational, Speech-Language Therapy. All home health services beyond initial visits for evaluation purposes, require prior approval.
- Prior authorization determinations are as follow:
- Prior authorization is not required for initial assessment visit.
  - Prior Authorization is required for Start of Care (SOC) or an extension service of certification and recertification. It is not acceptable for Home Health Agencies to wait until the end of a 60-day episode of care to obtain a completed certification, also verbal orders are not allowed during Certification/Recertification phase.
  - Prior authorization is not required at the initial assessment for:
    - Full PHP Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP)
    - PHP Medicare only Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP) will require
- 01-25-2023 Annual review: Continue with no change. Added physical therapy codes: 97010, 90712, 97022, 97024, 97116, 97161, 97162, 97163, 97164, 97545, and 97546. Revised language to clarify the section under Documentation Requirements section (I.3) which included additional language from 42 CFR 424.22(c). There is no change to the criteria, the content in the language that was added is in support of Medicare Benefit Manual, 30.5.1.2. As a result the language to section (II.8) and (III.9) were removed and noted to see section (I.3).
- 02-07-2024 Annual review. Reviewed by PHP Medical Policy Committee on 01/03/2024.
- The CMS manuals have no change relevant to timeframes of face-to-face encounter for certification and recertification. Certification should occur no more than 90 days prior to home health start of care or within 30 days of the start of the home health care. The recertification should occur at the end of the initial 60-day episode, a decision must be made as to whether or not to recertify the patient for a subsequent 60-day episode. Recertification is required at least every 60 days when there is a need for continuous home health care after an initial 60-day episode.
- There are no changes to the LCDs referenced in this policy.
- Also no change to the following:
- Continue to follow CMS guidance.
  - PHP will not be responsible for enforcing to obtain Signatures, this is the responsibility of the HHA.
  - PHP will not be responsible for enforcing Face-to-Face requirement, this is the responsibility of HHA.
  - PHP primarily responsibility is to verify medical necessity and our UM staff will obtain orders related to the request and/or medical necessity.

*This Medical Policy is intended to represent clinical guidelines describing medical appropriateness and is developed to assist Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) Health Services staff and Presbyterian medical directors in determination of coverage. The Medical Policy is not a treatment guide and should not be used as such.*

*For those instances where a member does not meet the criteria described in these guidelines, additional information supporting medical necessity is welcome and may be utilized by the medical director in reviewing the case. Please note that all Presbyterian Medical Policies are available online at: [Click here for Medical Policies](#)*

**Web links:**

*At any time during your visit to this policy and find the source material web links has been updated, retired or superseded, PHP is not responsible for the continued viability of websites listed in this policy.*

*When PHP follows a particular guideline such as LCDs, NCDs, MCG, NCCN etc., for the purposes of determining coverage; it is expected providers maintain or have access to appropriate documentation when requested to support coverage. See the References section to view the source materials used to develop this resource document.*