

Hospice Face-To-Face (FTF) Encounters for Recertification



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| Effective Date: | Required for patients who enter their 3 rd or later hospice benefit period on/after January 1, 2011. |
| Who – Performed by: | A physician employed, volunteer or under arrangement (contract) with the hospice agency, or a hospice employed nurse practitioner (full-time, part-time, or per diem) must perform the FTF. |
| When - Timeframe: | FTF must occur within 30 calendar days <u>prior to</u> start of 3 rd benefit period and all subsequent recertifications. |
| Where - Location: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTF may occur at patient’s home or patient may come to physician/NP. However, patient’s travel should not compromise patient’s comfort, or the goals and needs of the patient and their family. • Telehealth visits are not allowed. |
| What - Documentation Requirements: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FTF must gather and document clinical findings to determine continued hospice eligibility. • If the hospice NP performs the FTF, they must share the clinical findings with the hospice physician. • The NP cannot sign the recertification, even though she/he provided the FTF. • The physician/NP who performs the FTF encounter must attest in writing that he or she had the FTF encounter, including the date of the visit. The NP must also attest that the clinical findings were provided to the certifying physician. • The FTF attestation must be signed and dated by the individual who performed the visit and must be a separate distinct section of the certification, or a clearly titled addendum to the certification. • The certification, physician narrative and attestation, and FTF encounter and attestation must all be completed by the <u>same physician</u> (unless the NP performs the FTF). • If the patient, in a 3rd or later benefit period, transfers to another hospice, the receiving hospice is not required to do a FTF for the benefit period if it can verify the FTF was provided by the previous hospice. • The written certification, including the narrative and FTF, must be signed prior to billing the claim. |
| Additional Information: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospice certifications may be completed up to 15 days prior to the effective date of the election and each subsequent benefit period. • Hospice certifications/recertifications must contain the dates of the benefit period. |
| Billing Information: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FTF visit is an administrative component of the recertification process and not separately billable. • If medically necessary professional services are provided, such as symptom management, this component can be billed on the hospice bill. • NP professional services are only billable if the NP was designated by the beneficiary as the attending physician. |
| Resources: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2, 2010 “Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2011” Final Rule, pgs 353-450 - http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-27778.pdf • December 1, 2010, Home Health & Hospice Medicare A Newsline, pgs 36-37 |



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