



Hospice Face-to-face encounter rule

Who qualifies to perform the face-to-face encounter?

- A hospice physician, defined as a physician either employed by or working under arrangement with a hospice
- Residents and fellows who are employed or under agreement with the hospice agency
- Employed nurse practitioners

When does the face-to-face encounter need to take place?

- Up to 30 days prior or on the first day of the third or later benefit period
- The total recertification process (face-to-face encounter, physician narrative and signed certification of terminal illness) must be complete 15 days prior or on the first day of the third or later benefit period

What should be included in the attestation of the face-to-face encounter?

- Date of the visit
- Hospice physician attestation
- Hospice physician/medical director/nurse practitioner signature and date

As a condition for reimbursement of hospice services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will implement a new rule requiring patient/physician face-to-face encounters for hospice patients who are expected to reach the third benefit period (usually on the 180th day). PHYSICIAN MUST SIGN AND DATE THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE ENCOUNTER.



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