



Xerox State Healthcare 2 Pillsbury Street Suite 200 Concord, NH 03301

TO: All Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives
FROM: NH Medicaid
DATE: July 26, 2016
SUBJECT: New Home Health Face-to-Face Encounter Rule for Standard* Medicaid Population

In accordance with provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), orders for home health services, which include skilled nursing visits, therapies, and services of a Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA), require the Medicaid recipient to have a face-to-face encounter within 90 days prior to the start of care or within 30 days after the start of care. The face-to-face requirement applies only to the initial order for home health services for both children and adults and for all episodes initiated with the completion of a Start-of-Care Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS). There is no recertification face-to-face requirement. The purpose for the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the individual requires home health services. The individual need not be homebound in order to receive Medicaid home health services.

The face-to-face encounter must be performed by either a physician or a permitted non-physician practitioner (“NPP”) including a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist, who is working in collaboration with the physician in accordance with state law, a physician assistant under the supervision of the physician or a certified nurse midwife.

Effective September 1, 2016 and thereafter, the NH Medicaid program will require a face to face encounter for initial orders for home health services. The physician or permitted non-physician practitioner must document the occurrence of the face-to-face encounter and describe how the patient’s clinical condition supports the need for home health services. The documentation must be incorporated into the medical record and include the name of the practitioner who conducted the encounter and the date of the encounter. Documentation of the initial face-to-face encounter should be submitted to the home health agency.

New Hampshire’s Home Health Administrative Rule, He-W 553 was approved on June 17th. The adopted rule will be available at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/nholsrulesdbsearch/>

If providers have questions about the new face-to-face encounter requirements, please contact Jane Hybsch RN at 603-271-9423 or via e-mail at Jane.Hybsch@dhhs.nh.gov

Standard Medicaid means the Medicaid benefit plan delivered by the state via fee-for-service or the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to all categorically needy or medically needy individuals covered under the NH Medicaid State Plan, including NHHPP individuals who are medically frail and do not elect to receive coverage under the Alternative Benefit Plan described in He-W512.