

CMS Home Health Face-to-Face Made Easy

PERCENT OF DENIALS FOR FACE-TO-FACE = 49.8% Source: Palmetto GBA, May 2013

Targeted Training: Documentation of Homebound and Home Health Need

DENIED

- **“Taxing effort to leave home”** (non-specific CMS definition)
- **“Weakness” or “Tires easily”** (insufficient alone; specific clinical findings needed to explain/support)
- **“Cannot drive” or “No transportation available”** (insufficient homebound reasons)
- **“Gait abnormality alone” or “Gait dysfunction alone” or “Decreased mobility alone”**

DENIED

- **“Diagnosis alone”** (e.g., Hip fracture or Dementia) **or “Procedure alone”** (e.g., TKA)
- **“No one available to do wound care/IV therapy”** (insufficient; specific skilled requirements needed)
- **“Patient (or family) needs help”** (insufficient; specific skilled requirements needed)
- **“Patient post-hospital stay alone”** (insufficient; specific skilled requirements needed)

CORRECT

- **“Patient temporarily homebound with new onset of painful ambulation due to right hip fx and ORIF surgery. Patient now ambulates with walker; human assist for stairs. Patient weak with poor balance due to narcotic pain med use; increased risk for falls. Patient requires skilled nursing for instruction, observation and assessment of post-op incision/care and medication teaching/management. PT for gait training to restore safe independent functional ambulation in community.”**