

HOSPICE DENIAL FACT SHEET

Denial Reason 5PCER: Missing/Incomplete/ Untimely Certification/Recertification

<p>What is a certification/recertification?</p>	<p>A certification/recertification of terminal illness is a document by which the physician(s) certifies that the Medicare beneficiary is eligible for the Medicare Hospice Benefit.</p> <p>The certification/recertification is a required piece of documentation in order for a hospice provider to receive payment from Medicare.</p>
<p>What is the timeline for completing the certification/recertification?</p>	<p>The verbal or written certification/recertification can be obtained up to 15 days before hospice care is elected (for initial certifications) or up to 15 days before the start of the next benefit period (for recertifications).</p> <p>However, it must be obtained no later than the 2nd calendar day (end of the 3rd day) after the start of each benefit period.</p> <p>Certifications/recertification received outside of this timeframe are considered untimely, and will result in a denied claim.</p>
<p>What needs to be included on the certification/recertification?</p>	<p>The certification/recertification must be completed by an MD or DO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For initial certifications, the hospice medical director (or physician member of the interdisciplinary group (IDG)) and the patient's attending physician (if the patient has one) must sign the certification. • For recertifications, only the hospice medical director or IDG physician must sign. <p>The certification/recertification must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement that the patient is terminally ill with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Example: "I certify that (beneficiary's name) is terminally ill with a life expectancy of six months or less if the terminal illness runs its normal course." • A brief narrative, composed by the certifying physician, that explains the clinical findings which support that the patient is terminally ill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: A diagnosis alone does not support a terminal prognosis. • The benefit period dates for which the certification/recertification is valid. • The physician's/physicians' signature(s) and date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the narrative is an addendum, the physician(s) must sign both the certification/recertification AND the addendum. • An attestation statement that clearly indicates who composed the narrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Example: "I certify that I composed this narrative." <p>The certification/recertification may not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checkboxes • Standard language used for all patients

<p>What is important to remember?</p>	<p>It is important to remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a physician’s signature is not obtained timely, any services which are provided prior to the date the physician signed the certification are not reimbursable. • If the physician(s) forgets to date the certification/recertification, the provider may submit a notarized document to verify the certification/recertification date. • If the patient’s attending physician is a nurse practitioner, make sure to document this in the record.
<p>Where do I find more information?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGS Web page “Hospice Certification/Recertification Requirements”: http://www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/coverage/Coverage_Guidelines/CERT_ReCERT_Requirements.html • Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (CMS Pub. 100-02), Ch. 9 §20.1: http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c09.pdf • CGS Web page “Appropriate Clinical Factors to Consider During Recertification of a Medicare Hospice Patient”: http://www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/education/materials/pdf/Hospice%20Clinical%20Factors%20Recert%20Tool_H-020-01_07-2011.pdf