Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS

§ 485.711 Condition of participation: Plan of care and physician involvement.

For each patient in need of outpatient physical therapy or speech pathology services, there is a written plan of care established and periodically reviewed by a physician, or by a physical therapist or speech pathologist respectively.

(a) Standard: Medical history and prior treatment. The following are obtained by the organization before or at the time of initiation of treatment:

(1) The patient’s significant past history.
(2) Current medical findings, if any.
(3) Diagnosis(es), if established.
(4) Physician’s orders, if any.
(5) Rehabilitation goals, if determined.
(6) Contraindications, if any.
(7) The extent to which the patient is aware of the diagnosis(es) and prognosis.
(8) If appropriate, the summary of treatment furnished and results achieved during previous periods of rehabilitation services or institutionalization.

(b) Standard: Plan of care. (1) For each patient there is a written plan of care established by the physician or by the physical therapist or speech-language pathologist who furnishes the services.

(2) The plan of care for physical therapy or speech pathology services indicates anticipated goals and specifies for those services the—

(i) Type;
(ii) Amount;
(iii) Frequency; and
(iv) Duration.

(3) The plan of care and results of treatment are reviewed by the physician or by the individual who established the plan at least as often as the patient’s condition requires, and the indicated action is taken.

(4) Changes in the plan of care are noted in the clinical record. If the patient has an attending physician, the therapist or speech-language pathologist who furnishes the services promptly notifies him or her of any change in the patient’s condition or in the plan of care.

(c) Standard: Emergency care. The rehabilitation agency must establish procedures to be followed by personnel in an emergency, which cover immediate care of the patient, persons to be notified, and reports to be prepared.

(b) Standard: Facilities and equipment. The organization has the equipment and facilities required to provide the

§ 485.713 Condition of participation: Physical therapy services.

If the organization offers physical therapy services, it provides an adequate program of physical therapy and has an adequate number of qualified personnel and the equipment necessary to carry out its program and to fulfill its objectives.

(a) Standard: Adequate program. (1) The organization is considered to have an adequate outpatient physical therapy program if it can:

(i) Provide services using therapeutic exercise and the modalities of heat, cold, water, and electricity;
(ii) Conduct patient evaluations; and
(iii) Administer tests and measurements of strength, balance, endurance, range of motion, and activities of daily living.

(2) A qualified physical therapist is present or readily available to offer supervision when a physical therapist assistant furnishes services.

(i) If a qualified physical therapist is not on the premises during all hours of operation, patients are scheduled so as to ensure that the therapist is present when special skills are needed, for example, for evaluation and reevaluation.

(ii) When a physical therapist assistant furnishes services off the organization’s premises, those services are supervised by a qualified physical therapist who makes an onsite supervisory visit at least once every 30 days.

(b) Standard: Facilities and equipment. The organization has the equipment and facilities required to provide the
range of services necessary in the treatment of the types of disabilities it accepts for service.

(c) Standard: Personnel qualified to provide physical therapy services. Physical therapy services are provided by, or under the supervision of, a qualified physical therapist. The number of qualified physical therapists and qualified physical therapist assistants is adequate for the volume and diversity of physical therapy services offered. A qualified physical therapist is on the premises or readily available during the operating hours of the organization.

(d) Standard: Supportive personnel. If personnel are available to assist qualified physical therapists by performing services incident to physical therapy that do not require professional knowledge and skill, these personnel are instructed in appropriate patient care services by qualified physical therapists who retain responsibility for the treatment prescribed by the attending physician.

§ 485.717 Condition of participation: Rehabilitation program.

This condition and standards apply only to a rehabilitation agency's own patients, not to patients of hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), or Medicaid nursing facilities (NFs) to which the agency furnishes services. The hospital, SNF, or NF is responsible for ensuring that qualified staff furnish services for which they arrange or contract for their patients. The rehabilitation agency provides physical therapy and speech-language pathology services to all of its patients who need them.

(a) Standard: Qualification of staff. The agency’s therapy services are furnished by qualified individuals as direct services and/or services provided under contract.

(b) Standard: Arrangements for services. If services are provided under contract, the contract must specify the term of the contract, the manner of termination or renewal and provide that the agency retains responsibility for the control and supervision of the services.

§ 485.719 Condition of participation: Arrangements for physical therapy and speech pathology services to be performed by other than salaried organization personnel.

(a) Conditions. If an organization provides outpatient physical therapy or speech pathology services under an arrangement with others, the services are to be furnished in accordance with the terms of a written contract, which provides that the organization retains of professional and administrative responsibility for, and control and supervision of, the services.

(b) Standard: Contract provisions. The contract—

(1) Specifies the term of the contract and the manner of termination or renewal;