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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 1302 and 1395hh.

SOURCE: 48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provision and Definitions

§ 418.1 Statutory basis.

This part implements section 1861(dd) of the Social Security Act (the Act). Section 1861(dd) of the Act specifies services covered as hospice care and the conditions that a hospice program must meet in order to participate in the Medicare program. Section 1861(dd) also specifies limitations on coverage of, and payment for, inpatient hospice care. The following sections of the Act are also pertinent:

- (a) Sections 1812(a) (4) and (d) of the Act specify eligibility requirements for the individual and the benefit periods.
- (b) Section 1813(a)(4) of the Act specifies coinsurance amounts.
- (c) Sections 1814(a)(7) and 1814(i) of the Act contain conditions and limitations on coverage of, and payment for, hospice care.
- (d) Sections 1862(a) (1), (6) and (9) of the Act establish limits on hospice coverage.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 57 FR 36017, Aug. 12, 1992; 74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009]

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§ 418.2 Scope of part.

Subpart A of this part sets forth the statutory basis and scope and defines terms used in this part. Subpart B specifies the eligibility and election requirements and the benefit periods. Subparts C and D specify the conditions of participation for hospices. Subpart E is reserved for future use. Subparts F and G specify coverage and payment policy. Subpart H specifies coinsurance amounts applicable to hospice care.

[74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009]

§ 418.3 Definitions.

For purposes of this part—

Attending physician means a—

- (1)(i) Doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine and surgery by the State in which he or she performs that function or action; or
- (ii) Nurse practitioner who meets the training, education, and experience requirements as described in § 410.75(b) of this chapter; or
- (iii) Physician assistant who meets the requirements of § 410.74(c) of this chapter.

(2) Is identified by the individual, at the time he or she elects to receive hospice care, as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the individual's medical care.

Bereavement counseling means emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support and services provided before and after the death of the patient to assist with issues related to grief, loss, and adjustment.

BFCC-QIO means Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization.

Cap period means the twelve-month period ending September 30 used in the application of the cap on overall hospice reimbursement specified in § 418.309.

Clinical note means a notation of a contact with the patient and/or the family that is written and dated by any person providing services and that describes signs and symptoms, treatments and medications administered, including the patient's reaction and/or response, and any changes in physical,

emotional, psychosocial or spiritual condition during a given period of time.

Comprehensive assessment means a thorough evaluation of the patient's physical, psychosocial, emotional and spiritual status related to the terminal illness and related conditions. This includes a thorough evaluation of the caregiver's and family's willingness and capability to care for the patient.

Dietary counseling means education and interventions provided to the patient and family regarding appropriate nutritional intake as the patient's condition progresses. Dietary counseling is provided by qualified individuals, which may include a registered nurse, dietitian or nutritionist, when identified in the patient's plan of care.

Employee means a person who:

(1) Works for the hospice and for whom the hospice is required to issue a W-2 form on his or her behalf;

(2) If the hospice is a subdivision of an agency or organization, an employee of the agency or organization who is assigned to the hospice; or

(3) Is a volunteer under the jurisdiction of the hospice.

Hospice means a public agency or private organization or subdivision of either of these that is primarily engaged in providing hospice care as defined in this section.

Hospice care means a comprehensive set of services described in 1861(dd)(1) of the Act, identified and coordinated by an interdisciplinary group to provide for the physical, psychosocial, spiritual, and emotional needs of a terminally ill patient and/or family members, as delineated in a specific patient plan of care.

Initial assessment means an evaluation of the patient's physical, psychosocial and emotional status related to the terminal illness and related conditions to determine the patient's immediate care and support needs.

Licensed professional means a person licensed to provide patient care services by the State in which services are delivered.

Multiple location means a Medicare-approved location from which the hospice provides the same full range of hospice care and services that is required of the hospice issued the certifi-

cation number. A multiple location must meet all of the conditions of participation applicable to hospices.

Palliative care means patient and family-centered care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering. Palliative care throughout the continuum of illness involves addressing physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual needs and to facilitate patient autonomy, access to information, and choice.

Physician means an individual who meets the qualifications and conditions as defined in section 1861(r) of the Act and implemented at §410.20 of this chapter.

Physician designee means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy designated by the hospice who assumes the same responsibilities and obligations as the medical director when the medical director is not available.

Pseudo-patient means a person trained to participate in a role-play situation, or a computer-based mannequin device. A pseudo-patient must be capable of responding to and interacting with the hospice aide trainee, and must demonstrate the general characteristics of the primary patient population served by the hospice in key areas such as age, frailty, functional status, cognitive status and care goals.

Representative means an individual who has the authority under State law (whether by statute or pursuant to an appointment by the courts of the State) to authorize or terminate medical care or to elect or revoke the election of hospice care on behalf of a terminally ill patient who is mentally or physically incapacitated. This may include a legal guardian.

Restraint means—(1) Any manual method, physical or mechanical device, material, or equipment that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a patient to move his or her arms, legs, body, or head freely, not including devices, such as orthopedically prescribed devices, surgical dressings or bandages, protective helmets, or other methods that involve the physical holding of a patient for the purpose of conducting routine physical examinations or tests, or to protect the patient from falling out of bed, or to permit the patient to participate in activities without the

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risk of physical harm (this does not include a physical escort); or

(2) A drug or medication when it is used as a restriction to manage the patient's behavior or restrict the patient's freedom of movement and is not a standard treatment or dosage for the patient's condition.

Seclusion means the involuntary confinement of a patient alone in a room or an area from which the patient is physically prevented from leaving.

Simulation means a training and assessment technique that mimics the reality of the homecare environment, including environmental distractions and constraints that evoke or replicate substantial aspects of the real world in a fully interactive fashion, in order to teach and assess proficiency in performing skills, and to promote decision making and critical thinking.

Terminally ill means that the individual has a medical prognosis that his or her life expectancy is 6 months or less if the illness runs its normal course.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 52 FR 4499, Feb. 12, 1987; 55 FR 50834, Dec. 11, 1990; 70 FR 45144, Aug. 4, 2005; 72 FR 50227, Aug. 31, 2007; 73 FR 32204, June 5, 2008; 79 FR 50509, Aug. 22, 2014; 83 FR 38654, Aug. 6, 2018; 84 FR 38543, Aug. 6, 2019; 86 FR 42605, Aug. 4, 2021]

Subpart B—Eligibility, Election and Duration of Benefits

§ 418.20 Eligibility requirements.

In order to be eligible to elect hospice care under Medicare, an individual must be—

- (a) Entitled to Part A of Medicare; and
- (b) Certified as being terminally ill in accordance with § 418.22.

§ 418.21 Duration of hospice care coverage—Election periods.

(a) Subject to the conditions set forth in this part, an individual may elect to receive hospice care during one or more of the following election periods:

- (1) An initial 90-day period;
- (2) A subsequent 90-day period; or
- (3) An unlimited number of subsequent 60-day periods.

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(b) The periods of care are available in the order listed and may be elected separately at different times.

[55 FR 50834, Dec. 11, 1990, as amended at 57 FR 36017, Aug. 12, 1992; 70 FR 70546, Nov. 22, 2005]

§ 418.22 Certification of terminal illness.

(a) *Timing of certification*—(1) *General rule.* The hospice must obtain written certification of terminal illness for each of the periods listed in § 418.21, even if a single election continues in effect for an unlimited number of periods, as provided in § 418.24(c).

(2) *Basic requirement.* Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the hospice must obtain the written certification before it submits a claim for payment.

(3) *Exceptions.* (i) If the hospice cannot obtain the written certification within 2 calendar days, after a period begins, it must obtain an oral certification within 2 calendar days and the written certification before it submits a claim for payment.

(ii) Certifications may be completed no more than 15 calendar days prior to the effective date of election.

(iii) Recertifications may be completed no more than 15 calendar days prior to the start of the subsequent benefit period.

(4) *Face-to-face encounter.* (i) As of January 1, 2011, a hospice physician or hospice nurse practitioner must have a face-to-face encounter with each hospice patient whose total stay across all hospices is anticipated to reach the 3rd benefit period. The face-to-face encounter must occur prior to, but no more than 30 calendar days prior to, the 3rd benefit period recertification, and every benefit period recertification thereafter, to gather clinical findings to determine continued eligibility for hospice care.

(ii) During a Public Health Emergency, as defined in § 400.200 of this chapter, or through December 31, 2024, whichever is later, if the face-to-face encounter conducted by a hospice physician or hospice nurse practitioner is for the sole purpose of hospice recertification, such encounter may occur via a telecommunications technology