INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS ON HOME HEALTH ORDERS

[The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for home health care agencies have](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/coverage/hh_coverage_guidelines/1b.html) [requirements for who can order services, oversee the plan of care, and sign orders for home](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/coverage/hh_coverage_guidelines/1b.html) [health care.](https://www.cgsmedicare.com/hhh/coverage/hh_coverage_guidelines/1b.html)

**PROVIDER REQUIRMENTS FOR ORDERING HOME HEALTH SERVICES**

**WRITTEN/VERBAL ORDERS**

* A written or verbal order is required before any direct care services can be provided **AND** is needed at the time of, or immediately following, the initial admission visit to confirm the ongoing plan of care before any further services can be provided.
* This is a federal requirement under the Medicare Conditions of Participation in order for a home health agency to provide and be reimbursed for services.

**OVERSEEING THE 60-DAY HOME HEALTH PLAN OF CARE**

* A patient is required to be under the care of the physician or allowed practitioner who signs the Plan of Care (POC) order.
* The POC order covers a 60-day timeframe
  + The dates of the POC are typically located at the top of the POC order.
* CMS expects that in most instances, the physician or allowed practitioner who **certifies the patient’s eligibility** for Medicare home health services will be the **same physician or allowed practitioner who establishes and signs the Plan of Care.**

**SIGNING THE HOME HEALTH PLAN OF CARE**

**REFERENCES**

Code Of Federal Regulations: [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-B/part-424/subpart-B/section-424.22) [B/part-424/subpart-B/section-424.22](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-B/part-424/subpart-B/section-424.22)

PECOS Enrollment Information: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/EnrollmentResources/provider-resources/provider-enrolment/Med-Prov-Enroll-MLN9658742.html>

Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (see 30.3 and 30.5.3): [https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c07.pdf) [Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c07.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c07.pdf)

NGS Home Health Documentation: Home Health Certifying Provider Change: <https://www.ngsmedicare.com/home-health-documentation?selectedArticleId=11274551>