

HOSPICE DENIAL FACT SHEET

Denial Reason 5PC01 – 5PC07: 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 initial certification must be obtained, either verbally or in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 15 days before hospice care is elected but no later than 2 calendar days (by the end of the 3rd day) after hospice care is initiated. <p>The recertification must be obtained, either verbally or in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 15 days before the start of the next benefit period but no later than 2 calendar days (by the end of the 3rd day) after the start of each benefit period. <p>Note: If a verbal certification is obtained, the written certification must be signed prior to submitting the claim to Medicare.</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, explaining the clinical findings to support the patient’s terminal illness. <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’ dated signature(s). <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 to clarify 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"> • If a physician’s signature is untimely, any services provided prior to the date the physician signed the certification are not reimbursable. • If the physician(s) does not date the certification/recertification, the provider may submit a notarized document authored by the physician to verify the certification/recertification date. • If the patient’s attending physician is a nurse practitioner, this must be documented. A nurse practitioner may not sign the certification/recertification.
<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 • SE1628, Documentation Requirements for the Hospice Physician Certification/Recertification: https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/se1628.pdf • 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_clinical_factors_recert_tool_h-020-01_07-2011.pdf