

Documenting Home Health Eligibility Criteria Series - Homebound Status

3/2/2023

NGS Home Health & Hospice (HHH) Provider Outreach & Education (POE) Team

Christa Shipman
POE Consultant



Erin Musumeci, RN
POE Consultant



Emily Fox-Squairs
POE Manager



Shelly Dailey, MSN,
BSN, RN, CPHM
POE Consultant



Andrea Freibauer
POE Consultant





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Objective

Offer federal Medicare regulatory direction to home health agencies and other provider types ordering, referring, providing oversight, and/or care for patients receiving home health services; as well as a greater understanding of medical record documentation requirements that support homebound status as it relates to Medicare home health eligibility criteria

AGENDA

NGS Home Health Jurisdictions

The Medicare Home Health
Benefit & Eligibility Criteria

Documenting Homebound
Status

References & Resources

Question & Answer Period

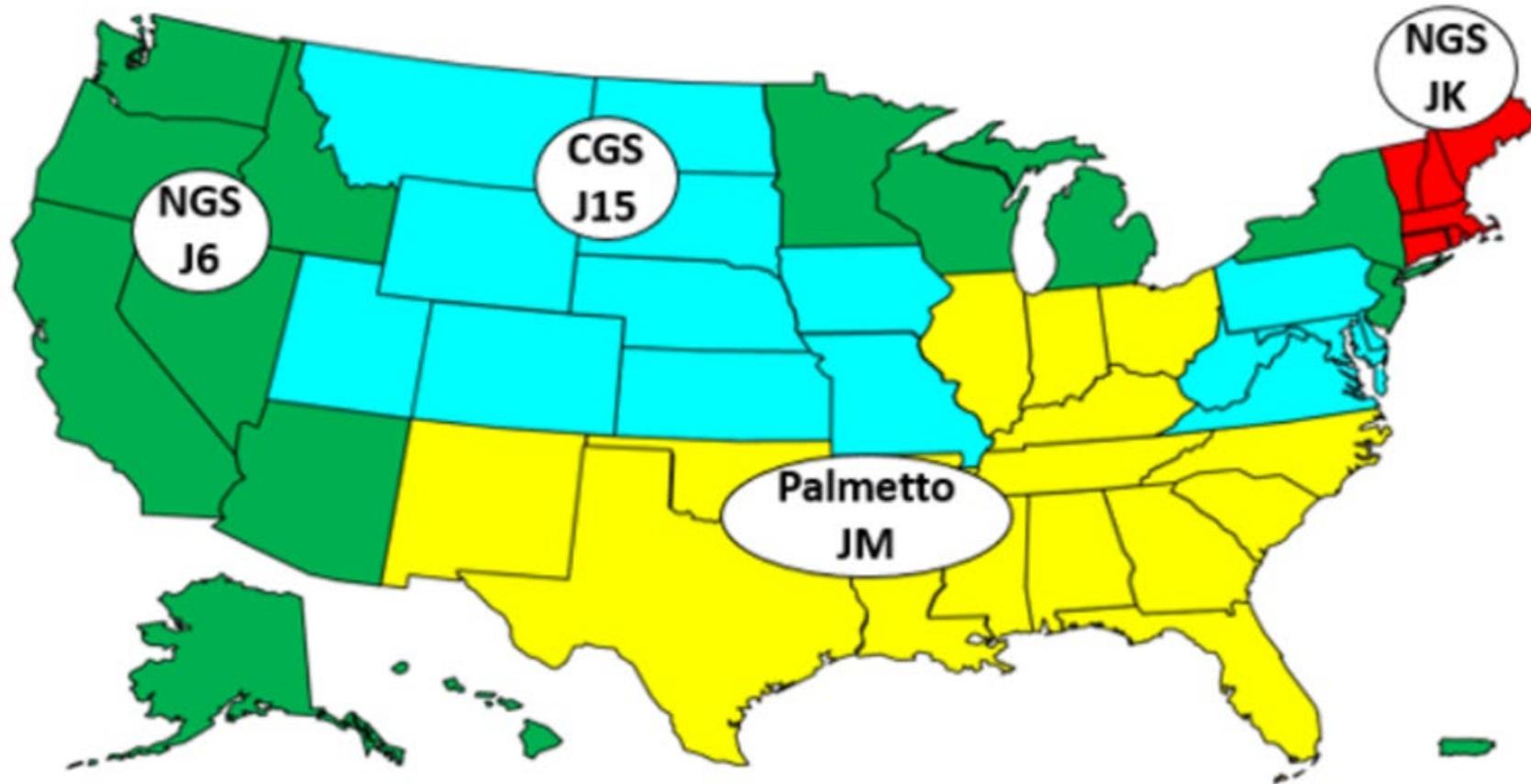
The background is a dark blue gradient. On the right side, there are large, overlapping, semi-transparent blue geometric shapes, including a large 'S' or 'R' curve and a diagonal band. On the left side, there is a pattern of small, light blue dots that fades out towards the center.

NGS Home Health Jurisdictions

NGS Home Health Jurisdictions

National Government Services, Inc.		
Jurisdiction K	Jurisdiction 6	
Maine New Hampshire Vermont Rhode Island Massachusetts Connecticut	New York New Jersey Michigan Wisconsin Minnesota Idaho Nevada Washington Oregon	California Arizona Alaska Hawaii Puerto Rico Mariana Islands American Samoa Virgin Islands Guam

NGS Home Health Jurisdictions





The Medicare Home Health Benefit & Eligibility Criteria

The Medicare Home Health Benefit

- Services that the Medicare beneficiary (patient) may receive at home include:

Skilled Nursing

Home Health
Aides

Physical
Therapy (PT)

Occupational
Therapy (OT)

Speech
Language
Pathology (SLP)

Social Work
(SW)

Home Health Eligibility Criteria

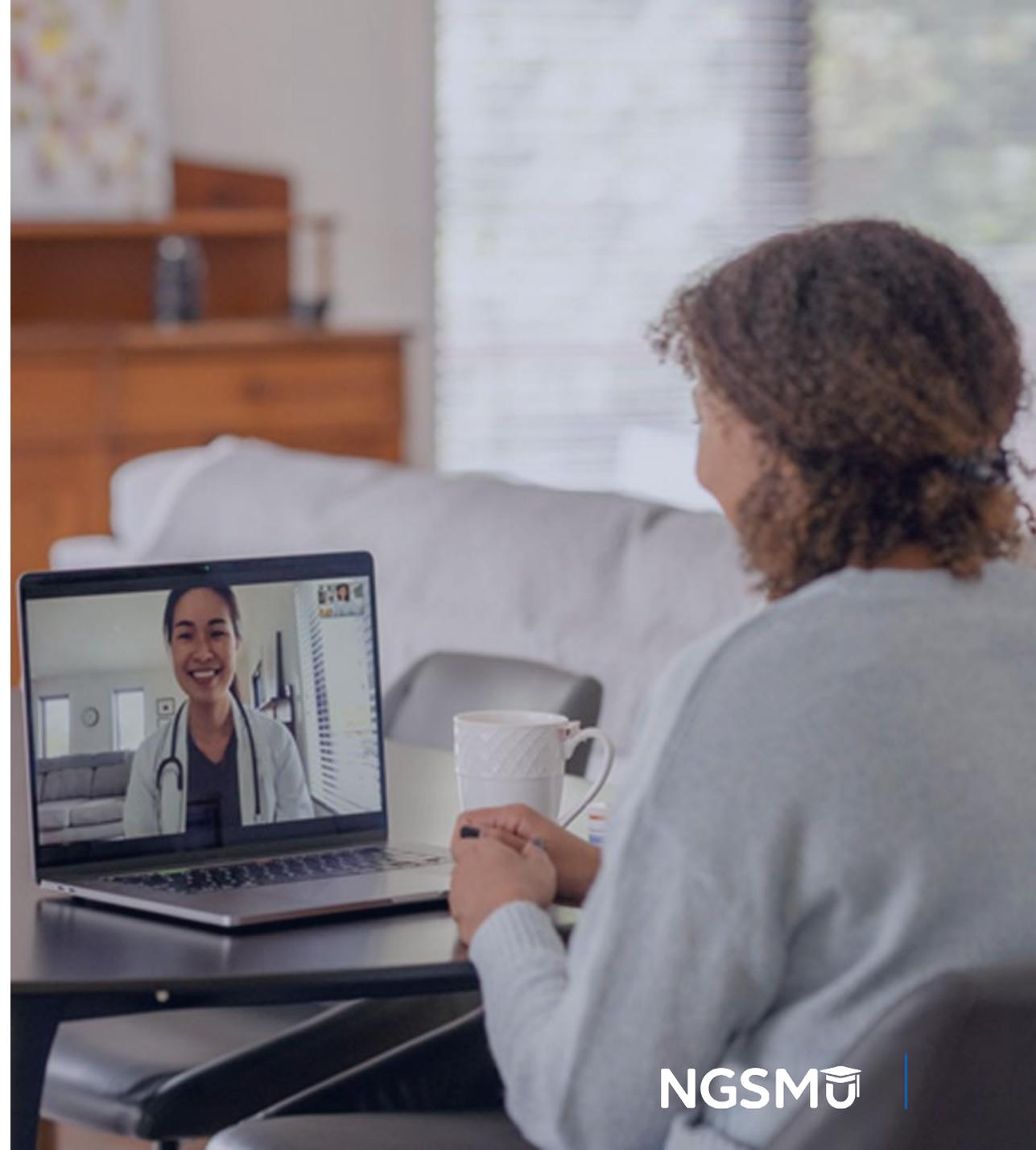
**Confined to the Home
(Homebound)**

**Have a Need for Skilled
Services (in the Home)**

**Remain Under the Care
of a Physician and/or
Allowed Practitioner
(Oversight)**

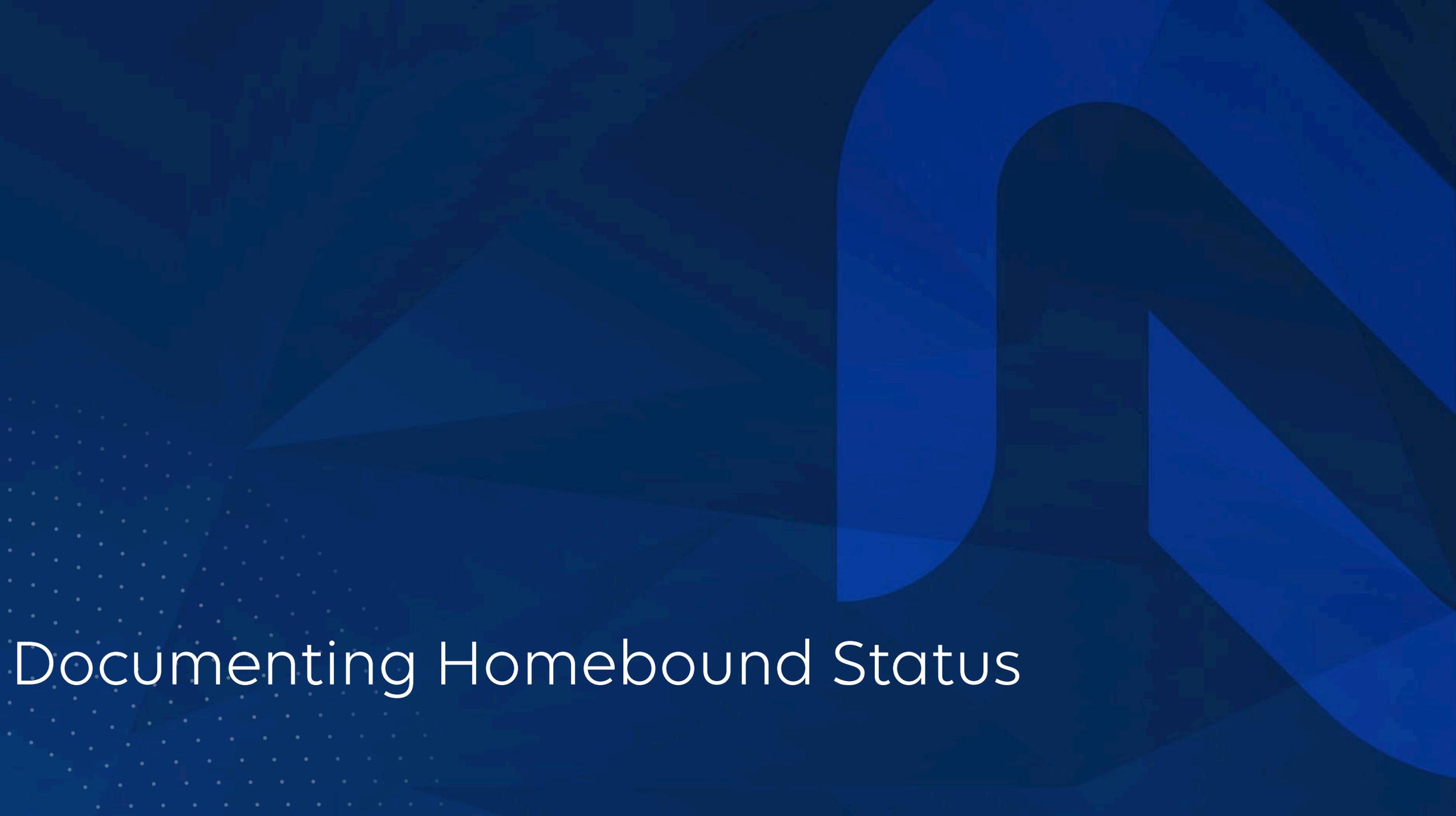
**Receive Services
Following a Plan of
Care**

**Had a Face-to-Face
Encounter**



Home Health Eligibility Criteria

- Does the patient meet all five eligibility criteria?
 - Is the patient homebound?
 - ✓ Are they able to leave the home to receive services?
 - Do they have a need for the skilled/professional services in the home?
 - ✓ Is the patient able to receive the “skilled” services on an outpatient basis in an office or clinic?
 - Is there a physician and/or allowed practitioner that has agreed to monitor home health services?
 - ✓ Is that name identified within the referral and/or medical record documentation?
 - Is there a plan of care in place or started?
 - ✓ What is the intent of the referral for home health services?
 - Did the patient have a face-to-face encounter for their current primary diagnosis?
 - ✓ Is there a copy of the medical record documentation identifying the encounter?



Documenting Homebound Status



Homebound Status

- Criteria One (One standard must be met):
 - Because of illness or injury, need the aid of supportive devices such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs and walkers; the use of special transportation; or the assistance of another person to leave their place of residence
 - Have a condition such that leaving the home is medically contraindicated



Homebound Status

- Criteria Two (Both standards must be met):
 - There must exist a normal inability to leave home
 - Leaving home must require a considerable and taxing effort

[CMS IOM Publication 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7](#)

Homebound Status

■ **Criteria One**

- Verify the type of support and/or supportive device or assistance required to assist the patient in leaving home
 - ✓ Example: patient uses walker or another individual to assist with ambulation

-or-

- Verify the reason why leaving home is medically contraindicated
 - ✓ Example: the patient is immunocompromised

Homebound Status

■ Criteria Two

- Explain the patients normal inability to leave home within the medical record documentation
 - ✓ Example: identify the patients “normal ability” prior to the current illness or injury and compare and contrast prior level of function to their current level of function

-and-

- Describe the patients taxing effort
 - ✓ Example: utilize the patients medical record documentation from the referring facility or physician/allowed practitioner office to identify patient specific challenges

Homebound Status

▪ **Criteria Two**

- Provide documentation regarding the patient's current health status

✓ Examples

- Prior level of function
- Current diagnosis
- Duration of condition
- Clinical course (worsening or improving)
- Prognosis
- Nature and extent of functional limitations
- Therapeutic interventions and results

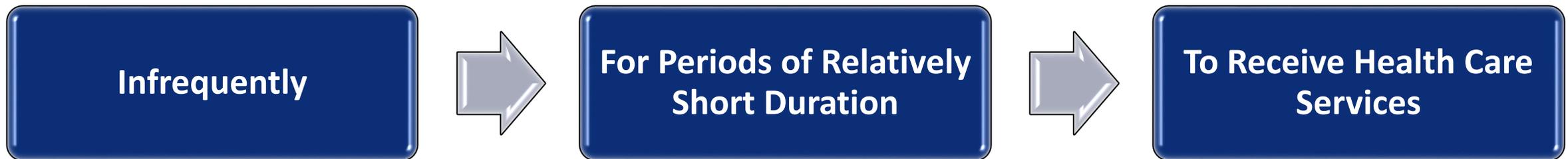
Homebound Status

▪ **Criteria Two**

- Ensure the information is patient specific
 - ✓ Examples:
 - Pain medications (causing drowsiness)
 - Rest periods (frequent rest periods with ambulation)
 - Oxygen (desaturation with ambulation, shortness of breath)
 - Incontinence (acute/chronic, new Foley catheter, briefs, irritation)
 - Confusion (acute/chronic, familiarity with current living accommodations)
 - Safety concerns (related to recent falls, familiarity with current living accommodations, confusion)
 - Alternative accommodations (is the patient currently in their own home or are they now residing elsewhere; moved in with family member, new surroundings)

Homebound Status

- The patient may leave the home and still be considered homebound; so long as they leave the home:



- Examples:
 - ✓ For medical appointments/treatments
 - ✓ For religious services
 - ✓ To attend adult daycare centers for medical care
 - ✓ For other unique or infrequent events
 - Funeral, graduation, hair care

[CMS IOM Publication 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual,](#)
[Chapter 7](#)

Homebound Status

- The federal Medicare regulations regarding home health services within the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 7 **do not state** that the patient cannot leave their home
- The federal Medicare regulations regarding home health services within the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 7 **do not state** that the patient cannot drive a car
 - These may be orders from the physician and/or allowed practitioner, but are not reasons to discharge the patient

Homebound Status

- Documentation must:

- Include information about the injury/illness and the type of support and/or supportive device/assistance required for illness/injury to assist the patient in leaving home

- ✓ **Example:** The pt. is a 67 year old male with a recent fall and fx to the left ankle requiring ORIF. The patient requires crutches for ambulation r/t NWB on the LLE as per MD orders. Pt requires the assistance of another person to navigate steps into and out of the house

Homebound Status

- In the event that the patient does not require the assistance of DME, special transportation or another person to leave the house
- Documentation must:
 - **Explain** in detail how the patient's current condition makes leaving home medically contraindicated
 - ✓ **Example:** The patient is immunocompromised or has dementia, psychoses, or other mental health disorders such that leaving the home without assistance from another person puts the patient at risk (as identified by the physician and/or allowed practitioner)

Homebound Status

- Documentation must:
 - **Clarify** the distinct difference in the patient's normal ability versus their normal inability
 - ✓ **Example:** Documentation regarding the patients PLOF should be identifiable within the patients medical record. This information should be reviewed and compared to their current LOF as it relates to the current injury or illness and need for skilled services in the home, as well as the patients homebound status

Homebound Status

- Documentation must:
 - Describe exactly what effects are causing the considerable and taxing effort for this patient when leaving home
 - ✓ **Example:** The patient is s/p MVA with multiple injuries, R hip fx with THR resulting from a stroke. She requires a walker with one to two assist with ADLs, ambulation, and four steps into and out of the home. The patient has remained confused and experiences incontinence since the accident and now resides with her son and his wife

Homebound Status

- Declaring any portion of the regulation as a blanket statement copied from the CMS Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 7 is considerably vague...
 - **Examples:**
 - ✓ “It’s a taxing effort for the patient to leave home.”
 - ✓ “The patient leaves home for periods of short duration.”
 - ✓ “The patient leaves home infrequently.”
 - ✓ “The patient leaves home for religious services.”
 - ✓ “The patient has a normal inability to leave their home.”



Home Health References & Resources

CMS Home Health Resources

- [CMS IOM Publication 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 7](#)
- [CMS IOM Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 10](#)
- [CMS IOM Publication 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 6](#)
- [Medicare & Medicaid Program: Conditions of Participation for Home Health Agencies](#)
- [HH PPS web page](#)
- [Home Health Agency \(HHA\) Center](#)
- [MLN[®] Publication, “Home Health Prospective Payment System”](#)
- [The Medicare Learning Network[®]](#)

Medicare University

- Interactive online system available 24/7
- Educational opportunities available
 - Computer-based training courses
 - Teleconferences, webinars, live seminars/face-to-face training
- Self-report attendance
- [Medicare University website](#)

Medicare University Self-Reporting Instructions

- Log on to the National Government Services [Medicare University site](#)
 - Topic = Documenting Home Health Eligibility Criteria Series (Presentation One): Homebound Status
 - Medicare University Credits (MUCs) = 1
 - Catalog Number = AA-C-####
 - Participant Code = #####SRD1
 - For step-by-step instructions on self-reporting please visit [Self-Reporting for Webinars, Teleconferences and Events](#) on the NGS website

Continuing Education Credits

- All National Government Services Part A and Part B Provider Outreach and Education attendees can now receive one CEU from AAPC for every hour of National Government Services education received
- If you are accredited with a professional organization other than AAPC, and you plan to request continuing education credit, please contact your organization, not National Government Services, with your questions concerning CEUs

National Government Services Website and **Contact Information**

<p>AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA, AS, GU, MP</p> <p>Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit: 866.277.7287</p> <p>Provider Contact Center (PCC): 866.590.6724</p>	<p>MI, MN, NY, NJ WI, PR, USVI</p> <p>Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit: 866.275.3033</p> <p>Provider Contact Center (PCC): 866.590.6728</p>	<p>t:</p>
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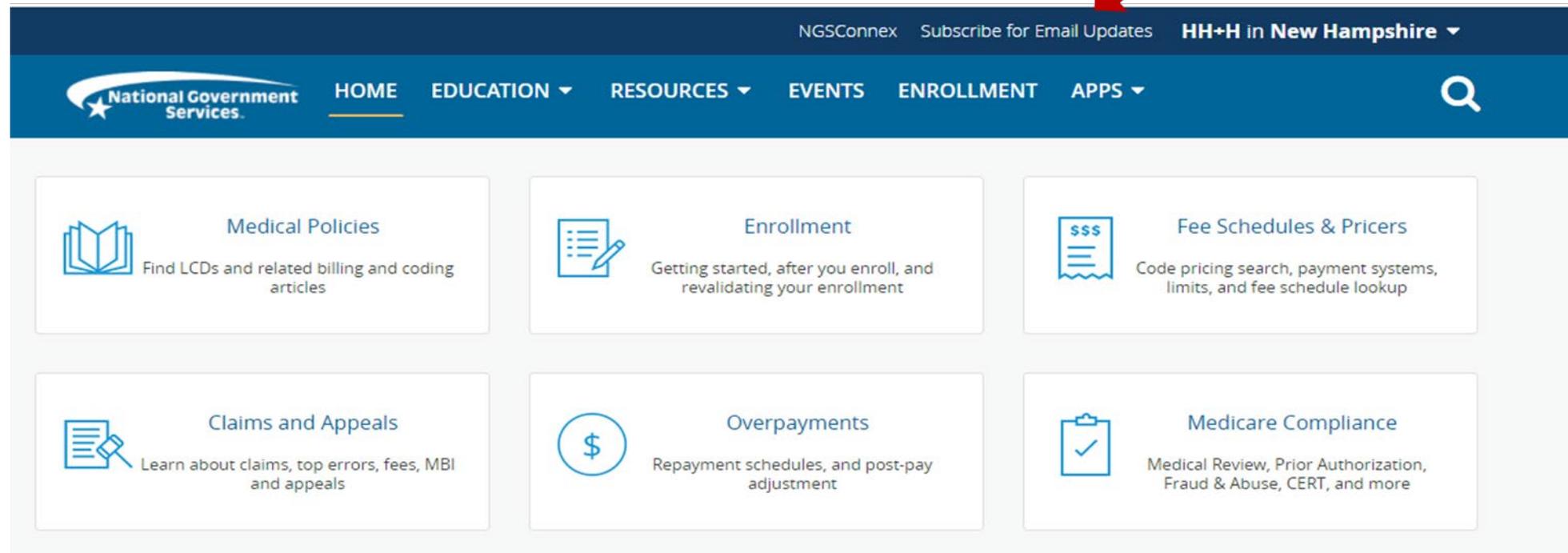


Provider Contact Center Procedures

- The PCC should always be your **first option when contacting the MAC**
 - Required to log and track all incoming inquiries
- Tiered system to respond accurately to all provider inquiries

NGS Email Updates

- Subscribe to receive the latest Medicare information



The screenshot shows the top portion of the National Government Services website. The dark blue header contains the text "NGSConnex", "Subscribe for Email Updates" (highlighted by a red arrow), and "HH+H in New Hampshire" with a dropdown arrow. Below the header is a navigation bar with the "National Government Services" logo and menu items: "HOME", "EDUCATION", "RESOURCES", "EVENTS", "ENROLLMENT", and "APPS". A search icon is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area features six white boxes with icons and text:

- Medical Policies**: Find LCDs and related billing and coding articles
- Enrollment**: Getting started, after you enroll, and revalidating your enrollment
- Fee Schedules & Pricers**: Code pricing search, payment systems, limits, and fee schedule lookup
- Claims and Appeals**: Learn about claims, top errors, fees, MBI and appeals
- Overpayments**: Repayment schedules, and post-pay adjustment
- Medicare Compliance**: Medical Review, Prior Authorization, Fraud & Abuse, CERT, and more



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NGSMedicare.com

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Physician Certification of Terminal Illness

- Must be obtained by the medical director of the hospice or the physician member of the hospice IDG and the individual's attending physician if the individual has an attending physician
- No one other than a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy can certify or recertify an individual as terminally ill as the signatory of the certification
- Nurse practitioners and physician assistants cannot certify or recertify an individual as terminally ill
- In the event that a beneficiary's attending physician is a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, the hospice medical director or the physician member of the hospice IDG certifies the individual as terminally ill

PLAY ALL

HHH On-Demand Videos

7 videos • 50 views • Last updated on Dec 9, 2021

1 Hospice Documentation - Painting the Picture of the Terminal Patient
NGSMedicare.com
1:08:28

2 Hospice - General Inpatient Documentation
NGSMedicare.com
1:02:34

3 Home Health Eligibility Criteria - Documenting Homebound Status
NGSMedicare.com
44:12

4 Responding to a Home Health & Hospice ADR
NGSMedicare.com
55:04



2023 HHH MAC Collaborative Summit

- Save the Date
- September 13, 14, 15
- Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
 - 355 S. Las Vegas Boulevard
 - Las Vegas, NV 89109
- Early Bird Registration \$249 (April 1 – June 1)
 - Includes 3 full days of education
- Rooms: \$95/night
 - Group Name: [2023 HHH Medicare Summit](#)
 - Processing fee incurred for telephone reservations

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

- We rely on your feedback!
 - When you visit our events page, please click on the banner and share your thoughts with us about the education we provide you. The survey only takes a few minutes of your time, and lets us know
 - What we are doing right
 - What education you are looking for
 - Educational topics you would like to see continued
 - Where we can improve
 - Thank You!



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

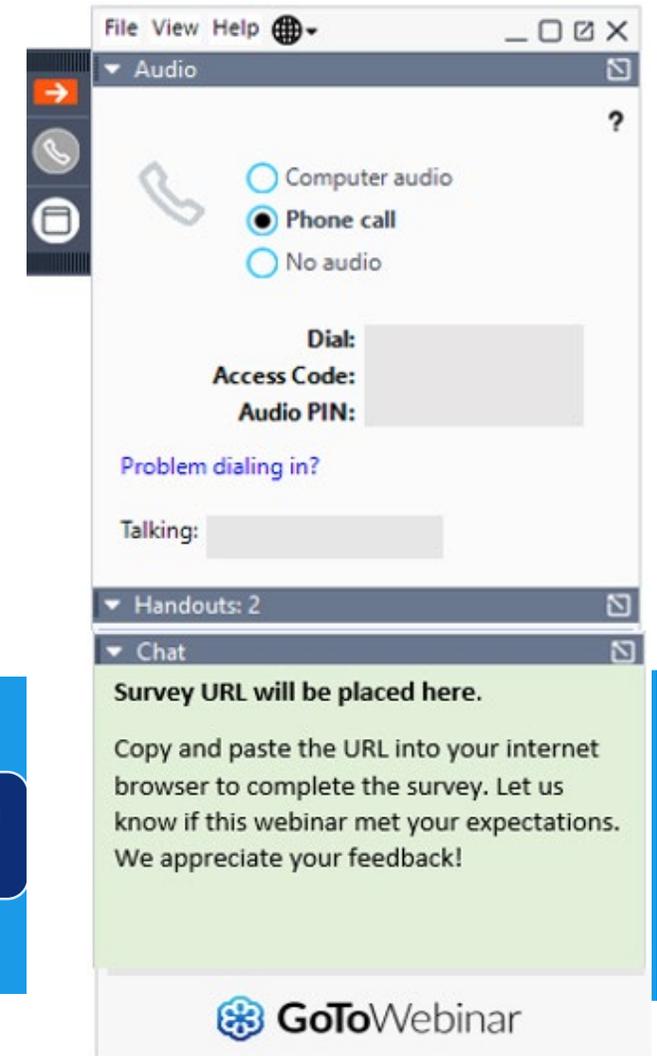
- A link to a survey for this webinar is available in the GoToWebinar Chat Box.
 - Only takes a few minutes to complete!
 - We read all of your comments!
 - Help us help you! Let us know how we are doing!
 - If you have positive comments, let us know so we can continue providing you with the education you need!

Copy/Paste URL to your
Internet Browser

Open/Complete Survey

Share your feedback with
us!

Thank you for your feedback!



Thank You!



Any
Questions?