

RULE

Department of Health and Hospitals Office of the Secretary Bureau of Health Services Financing

Home Health Services` Homebound Criteria



The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, adopts the following rule in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This rule is in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

Rule

The Bureau of Health Services Financing provides reimbursement for approved home health services for Medicaid recipients based upon the certification of a licensed physician that the recipient is homebound and upon the determination of the Medicaid Program that the recipient meets the bureau's homebound criteria under the Medicaid Program.

Homebound Criteria for Medicaid Recipients

Homebound status is determined by the recipient's illness and functional limitations. A recipient is considered to be homebound if the individual:

- 1) experiences a normal inability to leave home; or
- 2) is unable to leave home without expending a considerable and taxing effort; and
- 3) whose absences from the home are infrequent, of short duration, or to receive medical services which may be unavailable in the home setting, such as ongoing treatment of outpatient kidney dialysis or outpatient chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

The bureau allows an exception to the third requirement of being unable to leave home for EPSDT recipients, up to age 21, who attend school. However, the services may only be provided in the home. These recipients may be considered to meet the homebound criteria while attending school if prior authorization has approved the individual for multiple daily home visits and/or extended skilled nursing visits in accordance with the certifying physician's orders which must document and meet the following criteria:

- 1) the medical condition of the child meets the medical necessity requirement for the skilled nursing services in the home and that the provision of these services in the home is the most appropriate level of medical care;
- 2) that the failure to receive skilled nursing services in the home would place the recipient at risk of developing additional medical problems or could cause further debilitation; and
- 3) that the recipient/student requires skilled nursing services on a regular basis and that these services cannot be obtained in an outpatient setting before or after normal school hours.

In addition the following conditions must be met.

1) The recipient/student is determined to be medically fragile. A medically fragile individual is one who has a medically complex condition characterized by multiple, significant medical problems, which require extended care. Examples of medically fragile patients are patients whose care requires most or all of the following services/aides: use of home monitoring equipment, IV therapy, ventilator or tracheostomy care, feeding tube and nutritional support, frequent respiratory care or medication administration, catheter care, frequent positioning needs, etc.

2) Special accommodations such as specially equipped vehicles or medical devices and/or personal care attendants are needed to accompany the patient/student to and from school and/or to assist the patient/student at school.

The responsibilities of the home health agency:

The home health agency must provide to the bureau upon request the supporting documentation used to determine the recipient's homebound status.

The home health agency must report a complaint of abuse or neglect of home health recipient(s) to the appropriate authorities if the agency has knowledge that a minor child, or a nonconsenting adult or mentally incompetent adult, has been abused or not receiving the proper medical care due to neglect or lack of cooperation on the part of the legal guardians or caretakers. This includes knowledge that a patient is routinely being taken out of the home by a legal guardian or caretaker against medical advise, or when it is obviously medically contraindicated.

Bobby P. Jindal
Secretary