

If a patient has been certified as eligible for **Medicare home health services**, a **Face-to-Face Encounter Form** must be filled out. The form documents that a physician or NP saw the patient and notes the patient's clinical conditions that support a homebound status and need for skilled services.

### Below is a reference guide to help you

#### PATIENT MUST BE HOMEBOUND

1. A normal inability to leave the home; leaving the home **requires considerable and taxing effort**
2. The patient **needs intermittent skilled nursing and/or therapy**

#### Considerable taxing effort may include:

- Needs help of another person
- Needs assistive devices
- Needs special transport
- Shows symptoms such as shortness of breath, pain, anxiety, confusion or fatigue

#### This may include patients who attend:

- Adult day programs
- Outpatient medical care (i.e., chemotherapy)
- Religious services
- Dialysis
- Hair appointments

**NOTE:** Patients who leave the home infrequently for short durations may still be considered homebound.

#### INTERMITTENT SKILLED NURSING

##### Examples of skilled needs include:

- Teaching and training
- Observation and assessment
- Disease management and education
- Administration of certain medications
- Tube Feeding education
- Wound, catheter and ostomy care
- Nasopharyngeal and tracheostomy aspiration care
- Medication education

#### PHYSICAL OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

##### Examples of skilled needs include:

- Teaching and training
- Observation and assessment
- Restoration of function due to illness or injury
- Gait training
- Safety assessment
- Home exercise program
- Swallowing and speech evaluation
- Fine motor skills assessment and treatment
- Falls prevention teaching