
CHAPTER 24: HOSPICE

SECTION 24.14: ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS/TERMS

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ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS/TERMS

Attending/Primary Physician - A doctor of medicine or osteopathy, fully licensed to practice medicine in the State of Louisiana, who is designated by the recipient as the physician responsible for his/her medical care. The attending physician is the physician identified within the Medicaid system as the provider to which claims have been paid for services prior to the time of the election of hospice.

Bereavement Counseling - Organized counseling provided under the supervision of a qualified professional to help the family cope with death related grief and loss issues. This is to be provided for at least one year following the death of the recipient.

BHSF FORM HOSPICE-NOE (Notice of Election/Revocation/Discharge/Transfer) - This is the required form used to notify the hospice Prior Authorization Unit (PAU) of a recipient's election or cancellation of the hospice program as provided by Louisiana Medicaid. This form is also used to update changes in the Medicaid hospice recipient's condition and status.

BHSF FORM HOSPICE-CTI (Certification of Terminal Illness) - This is the required form to be used by the hospice agency for documentation of written and verbal certification of terminal illness for Medicaid recipients. **This form is not to be altered by the Hospice provider. In addition, this form may be utilized for dually eligible (Medicare/Medicaid) recipients.**

Clinical Condition – A diagnosis or recipient state that may be associated with more than one diagnosis, or may be as yet undiagnosed.

Core Services - Nursing services, physician services, medical social services and counseling services, including bereavement counseling, dietary counseling, spiritual counseling and any other counseling services provided to meet the needs of the individual and family.

Curative Treatments – Medical treatment and therapies provided to a recipient with the intent to improve symptoms and cure the patient's medical problem.

Department/LDH - Louisiana Department of Health

Discharge - The point at which the recipient's active involvement with the hospice services is ended and the hospice provider no longer has active responsibility for the care of the recipient.

Geographic Area - Area around location of licensed agency which is within a 50-mile radius of the agency premises.

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Hospice Employee - An individual whom the hospice provider pays directly for services performed on an hourly or per visit basis and the hospice provider is required to issue a form W-2 on his/her behalf. If a contracting service or another agency pays the individual, and is required to issue a form W-2 on the individual's behalf, or if the individual is self-employed, the individual is not considered a hospice employee. An individual is also considered a hospice employee if the individual is a volunteer under the jurisdiction of the hospice.

Interdisciplinary Group (IDG) - an interdisciplinary group or groups designated by the hospice provider, composed of representatives from all the core services. The IDG must include at least a doctor of medicine or osteopathy, a registered nurse, a social worker and a pastoral or other counselor. The interdisciplinary group is responsible for: participation in the establishment of the plan of care; provision or supervision of hospice care and services; periodic review and updating of the plan of care for each individual receiving hospice care; and establishment of policies governing the day-to-day provision of hospice care and services.

Level of Care - Hospice care is divided into four categories of care rendered to the hospice recipient: (1) routine home care; (2) continuous home care; (3) inpatient respite care; and (4) general inpatient care.

Non-Core Services - Services provided directly by hospice employees or under arrangement. These services include, but are not limited to home health aide and homemaker, physical therapy services, occupational therapy services, speech-language pathology services, inpatient care for pain control and symptom management and respite purposes, and medical supplies and appliances, including drugs and biologicals.

Plan of Care (POC) - A written document established and maintained for each individual admitted to a hospice program. Care provided to an individual must be in accordance with the plan. The plan includes an assessment of the individual's needs and identification of the services, including the management of discomfort and symptom relief.

Relative - For the purpose of legal representation, a relative is all persons related to the recipient by virtue of blood, marriage, adoption or legal guardianship as court appointed.

Service Intensity Add-On Rate (SIA) – A rate for registered nurse and social worker visits provided to a patient within the last seven days of life,

Terminal Illness - A medical prognosis of limited expected survival, of approximately six months or less at the time of referral to a hospice program, of an individual who is experiencing an illness for which therapeutic strategies directed toward cure and control of the disease alone are no longer appropriate.