

Rule No. 560-X-12-.08 Physician Certification and Recertification

(1) An eligible Medicaid recipient may be considered for home health services (i.e., nursing services and home health aide services) upon the initial written prescription or order signed ~~and place~~ by a physician licensed in the State of Alabama ~~who develops the recipient's written plan of care (the "ordering physician")~~ or an authorized non-physician practitioner (NPP).

(2) The ordering physician or NPP must sign and place the initial prescription or order for home health services only after the required face-to-face visit with the recipient is conducted ~~and documented by an authorized practitioner.~~

(3) Subsequent written prescriptions or orders for refills, ancillary supplies, repairs or services, or re-certifications do not require the ordering physician's or NPP's signature or an additional face-to-face visit.

(4) Either ~~an authorized the ordering~~ physician or one of the following authorized non-physician practitioners ~~(NPP) working under a collaboration agreement under Alabama law must may~~ conduct the required face-to-face visit ~~and write so that the ordering physician can place and sign~~ the initial ~~written~~ prescription or order for home health services:

- (a) Certified registered nurse practitioners ~~(CRNP)~~ or clinical nurse specialists; ~~(CNS) working under a collaboration agreement under Alabama law with the ordering physician;~~
- (b) Certified nurse midwives ~~under applicable Alabama law;~~
- (c) Physician assistants (PA) under the supervision of the ~~ordering~~ physician; or
- (d) Attending acute or post-acute physicians, if recipients are admitted to home health services immediately after discharge from an acute or post-acute stay.

(5) ~~Only The the ordering~~ physician or NPP ~~may must~~ document the clinical findings of the required face-to-face visit for the initial written prescription or order for home health services in the recipient's medical record. ~~If an NPP conducted the required face to face visit, then the NPP must communicate the clinical findings of the required face to face visit to the ordering physician so that the ordering physician can document those clinical findings in the recipient's medical record.~~

(6) The required face-to-face visit for the initial written prescription or order for home health services must be conducted no more than 90 days before or 30 days after the start of service. The face-to-face visit must be related to the primary reason why the recipient requires home health services. The ordering physician or NPP must provide written documentation to the home health provider regarding the recipient's condition, which justify that the recipient meets home health criteria. The ordering physician or NPP must be an active Medicaid provider licensed in the State of Alabama. The required face-to-face visit may be conducted using telehealth systems.

(7) The ordering physician or NPP must recertify care every sixty (60) days if home health services continue to be necessary.

(8) For more information on the requirements for placing the initial written prescription or order for certain medical supplies, equipment, and appliances, please refer to

Chapter 13—Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Supplies, Appliances, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Pedorthics (POP).

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Statutory Authority: Title XIX, Social Security Act; 42 C.F.R. Section 440.70; and State Plan.

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