

Requirements for Medicare Approved Home Health Care Information provided by Louisiana Senior Medicare Patrol

Most home health agencies are good, reputable businesses providing needed services to seniors. However, according to statistics from the Medicare Zone Program Integrity Contractor for Louisiana, the bad home health agencies are robbing the Medicare system of millions of dollars through fraud, waste and abuse. Unfortunately, Medicare beneficiaries can sometimes get involved in fraud scams without even knowing it. Here's what you need to know to protect yourself and your Medicare benefits.

To receive home health care services, you must be homebound. This means leaving your home requires a "considerable and taxing effort." You may leave home for medical appointments and church services, for example.

All home health care patients must have a face-to-face visit with a doctor who determines your plan of care. This visit may take place in a hospital or other acute care facility. It may also take place via tele-health.

Home health care services include skilled nursing care, physical therapy, occupational therapy or other medically necessary services received in your home.

Medicare will pay for home health aide services only if the patient is receiving other medically necessary home services.

Your home can be your own residence, a friend or relative's home or an assisted living facility. Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and most nursing homes are not considered a residence. Medicare should not be paying for home health services in these facilities.

Home health services are provided in 60-day episodes. There is no limit to the amount of episodes.

If you have questions or want more information visit our web site at www.stopmedicarefraudla.org or call Louisiana Senior Medicare Patrol at 877-272-8720.

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