

<b>CMS Manual System</b>	<b>Department of Health &amp; Human Services (DHHS)</b>
<b>Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing</b>	<b>Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS)</b>
<b>Transmittal 12635</b>	<b>Date: May 10, 2024</b>
	<b>Change Request 13531</b>

**Transmittal 12586 issued April 19, 2024, is being rescinded and replaced by Transmittal 12635, dated May 10, 2024, to change the effective date, revise the background section and Business Requirement (BR) 13531.3, to update BR 13531.2 to include the new date when the editing will apply and to add a note to BR 13531.4. All other information remains the same.**

**SUBJECT: Additional Implementation Edits on Hospice Claims for Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment**

**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to implement edits on Hospice Claims for Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment. Hospice certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians are required to be enrolled in Medicare or validly opted-out at the time they make the certification or recertification of hospice care for a patient. The edit requirements in this CR will check the REF PHYS NPI field as well as the ATT PHYS NPI field on the hospice claim to ensure the certifying physician as well as the attending physicians are enrolled or validly opted-out in Medicare for payment.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2024**

*\*Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: October 7, 2024**

***Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revise information only, and not the entire table of contents.***

**II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS:** (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

<b>R/N/D</b>	<b>CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE</b>
R	11/20.1.1/Notice of Election (NOE) Remove Modify
R	11/20.1.2/Notice of Termination/Revocation (NOTR)
R	11/20.1.3/Change of Provider/Transfer Notice
R	11/20.1.4/ Cancellation of an Election
R	11/20.1.5/Change of Ownership Notice
R	11/30.3/Data Required on the Institutional Claim to A/B MAC (HHH)

**III. FUNDING:**

**For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):**

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined

in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

#### **IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

**Business Requirements  
Manual Instruction**

# Attachment - Business Requirements

Pub. 100-04	Transmittal: 12635	Date: May 10, 2024	Change Request: 13531
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**SUBJECT: Additional Implementation Edits on Hospice Claims for Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment**

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**A. Background:** Pursuant to our authority under section 6405 of the Affordable Care Act, and as part of CMS' larger strategy to address hospice program integrity and quality of care, certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians must be enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare for the hospice service to be paid. The requirement is in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Hospice Payment Rate Update Final Rule (CMS-1787-F).

This CR will implement edit checks to look at the REF PHYS NPI field on the claim as well as the ATT PHYS NPI field when both fields are populated to ensure the certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare. These edits shall check to ensure the attending physician (not including nurse practitioners or physician assistants serving as an attending) and certifying physician listed on the claim are eligible and enrolled in Medicare or in an approved opt-out status. Both physicians, if different, will be subjected to the ordering and referring denial edits for the initial certification period. If the physicians are one and the same, the edits shall only be applied to the "Attending" field.

**B. Policy:** 42 CFR §424.507.

## II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

*"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.*

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
13531.1	Except for one modification to BR 13342.2 in CR 13342 (see BR 13531.6 below), FISS shall continue to apply the editing associated with previously issued CR 13342.			X		X				
13531.2	FISS shall apply the editing to claims with dates of service on or after June 3, 2024, to ensure					X				

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
	that the certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians are enrolled in PECOS or has validly opted out.									
13531.3	If the attending and certifying physicians are different, FISS shall apply the edits to both fields on the 837I ("Attending" and "Referring Provider").  This requirement applies when occurrence code 27 date is equal to the claim admit date.					X				
13531.3.1	When a hospice submits a claim and both the attending physician (ATT PHYS NPI field) and the certifying physician (REF PHYS NPI field) are populated, FISS shall check both the ATT PHYS NPI field and the REF PHYS NPI field. FISS shall use the NPI submitted in the ATT PHYS NPI field and the REF PHYS NPI field to verify the provider is on the PECOS Hospice O/R file.					X				
13531.3.1.1	If the incoming hospice claim contains occurrence code 27 and the date of certification does not match the admission date on the claim and both the attending physician (ATT PHYS NPI field) and the certifying physician (REF PHYS NPI field) are populated, FISS shall only check the REF PHYS NPI field. FISS shall use the NPI submitted in the REF PHYS NPI field to verify the certifying physician is on the PECOS Hospice O/R file.					X				
13531.4	When a nurse practitioner or physician assistant is serving as					X				

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
	<p>the attending, FISS shall read the specialty code off the PECOS HHA O/R file or the PECOS CAH file and plug into the claim and check the REF PHYS NPI field for the certifying physician. FISS shall use the NPI submitted in the REF PHYS NPI field to verify the provider is on the PECOS Hospice O/R file.</p> <p>Note: The NP/PA logic only applies when the occurrence code 27 date does not match the claim admit date.</p>									
13531.4.1	FISS shall read the PECOS type E (HHA) and type C (CAH) records to determine if the attending physician is an NP or PA.					X				
13531.5	When only the attending physician ATT PHYS NPI field is populated, FISS shall check the ATT PHYS NPI field for the certifying physician. FISS shall use the NPI submitted in the ATT PHYS NPI field to verify the provider is on the PECOS Hospice O/R file.					X				
13531.6	<p>FISS shall determine the Ordering (O/R) physician's (Claim Attending Physician) and/or the (Claim Referring Physician) eligibility as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When Occurrence Code 27 and its associated date are present, FISS shall allow payment when the Occurrence Code 27 date falls on or after the physician's effective date, but before the termination date on the PECOS</li> </ul>					X				

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
	<p>Hospice O/R – Attending Physician file.</p> <p>FISS shall not set the reason code when occurrence code 27 is not present.</p> <p>*This requirement is modifying BR 13342.2 in CR 13342.</p>									
13531.7	The contractors shall deny the claim if the certifying physician, including the hospice physician and hospice attending physician is not found on the PECOS Hospice O/R file.			X						
13531.8	<p>MACs shall process the claim and add Remittance Advice Remark Codes (RARC) N272 (Missing/incomplete/invalid other provider identifier) to the remittance advice if the attending/certifying physician provider is not found on the PECOS file.</p> <p>For original and adjusted claims use the Claim Adjustment Reason Codes 16 (Claim/service lacks information or has submission/billing error(s) and/or the RARC N272 (Missing/incomplete/invalid other provider identifier).</p> <p>MACs shall use Group Code (Contractual Obligation) and Medicare Summary Notice 21.6: (This item or service is not covered when performed, referred or ordered by this provider) for denied claims.</p>			X						
13531.9	FISS shall provide an override mechanism to allow for processing claims whose denial is overturned on appeal.					X				

### III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility				
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	CEDI
		A	B	HHH		
13531.10	Medicare Learning Network® (MLN): CMS will develop and release national provider education content and market it through the MLN Connects® newsletter shortly after we issue the CR. MACs shall link to relevant information on your website and follow IOM Pub. No. 100-09 Chapter 6, Section 50.2.4.1 for distributing the newsletter to providers. When you follow this manual section, you don't need to separately track and report MLN content releases. You may supplement with your local educational content after we release the newsletter.			X		

### IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A**

*"Should" denotes a recommendation.*

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

**Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A**

### V. CONTACTS

**Pre-Implementation Contact(s):** Wilfried Gehne, wilfried.gehne@cms.hhs.gov , Carla Douglas, carla.douglas@cms.hhs.gov

**Post-Implementation Contact(s):** Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

### VI. FUNDING

**Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):**

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

**ATTACHMENTS: 0**

# **Medicare Claims Processing Manual**

## **Chapter 11 - Processing Hospice Claims**

*Table of Contents*  
*(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24)*



### **20.1.1 - Notice of Election (NOE)**

*(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24; Effective:06-03-24; Implementation:10-07-24)*

When a Medicare beneficiary elects hospice services, hospices must complete the data elements identified below for the Uniform (Institutional Provider) Bill (Form CMS-1450) or its electronic equivalent, which is a Notice of Election (NOE).

Timely-filed hospice NOEs shall be filed within 5 calendar days after the hospice admission date. A timely-filed NOE is a NOE that is submitted to the A/B MAC (HHH) and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice admission date. While a timely-filed NOE is one that is submitted to and accepted by the Medicare contractor A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice election, posting to the CWF may not occur within that same time frame. The date of posting to the CWF is not a reflection of whether the NOE is considered timely filed. In instances where a NOE is not timely-filed, Medicare shall not cover and pay for the days of hospice care from the hospice admission date to the date the NOE is submitted to, and accepted by, the A/B MAC (HHH). These days shall be a provider liability, and the provider shall not bill the beneficiary for them. The hospice shall report these non-covered days on the claim with an occurrence span code 77, and charges for all claim lines reporting these days shall be reported as non-covered, or the claim will be returned to the provider.

If a hospice fails to file a timely-filed NOE, it may request an exception which, if approved, waives the consequences of filing a NOE late. The four circumstances that may qualify the hospice for an exception to the consequences of filing the NOE more than 5 calendar days after the hospice admission date are as follows:

1. fires, floods, earthquakes, or other unusual events that inflict extensive damage to the hospice's ability to operate;
2. an event that produces a data filing problem due to a CMS or A/B MAC (HHH) systems issue that is beyond the control of the hospice;
3. a newly Medicare-certified hospice that is notified of that certification after the Medicare certification date, or which is awaiting its user ID from its A/B MAC (HHH); or,
4. other circumstances determined by the A/B MAC (HHH) or CMS to be beyond the control of the hospice.

If one of the four circumstances described above prevents a hospice from filing a timely-filed NOE, the hospice may request an exception which, if approved, would waive the consequences of filing the NOE late.

When an NOE is submitted within the five day timely filing period, but the NOE contains inadvertent errors (such as a beneficiary identifier that has recently changed), the error

does not trigger the NOE to be immediately returned to the hospice for correction. In these instances, the hospice must wait until the incorrect information is fully processed by Medicare systems before the NOE is returned to the hospice for correction. There are other NOE errors, such as an incorrect admission date, that will not be returned for correction and instead must be finalized and posted by the Medicare systems before the hospice can correct the NOE. Only the hospice is aware of the error. Such delays in Medicare systems could cause the NOE to be late.

Delays due to Medicare system constraints are outside the control of the hospice and may qualify for an exception to the timely filing requirement.

Hospices can reduce the number of errors and exception requests related changes to the beneficiary identifier by performing an eligibility check immediately before admission. This can confirm that the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) is active and accurate since the eligibility inquiry system contains an MBI End Date field. If there is a date in that field, the MBI is not valid after that date. The hospice can contact the beneficiary or use the MBI Lookup tool to determine the current MBI to use on the NOE.

Since correct beneficiary identifier information is available to the hospice, only changes that occur shortly before the admission are beyond the hospice control. A/B MAC (HHH) MACs will not grant exceptions based on MBI changes that were accessible to the hospice more than two weeks prior to the admission date.

Medicare contractors shall grant an exception for the late NOE if the hospice is able to provide documentation showing:

- (1) When the original NOE was submitted;
- (2) When the NOE was returned to the hospice for correction or was accepted and available for correction and;
- (3) Evidence the hospice resubmitted the returned NOE within two business days of when it was available for correction or cancelled an accepted NOE within two business days and submitted the new NOE within two business days after the date that the cancellation NOE finalized.

The hospice shall provide sufficient information in the Remarks section of its claim to allow the contractor to research the case. If the remarks are not sufficient, Medicare contractors shall request documentation. Documentation should consist of printouts or screen images of any Medicare systems screens that contain the information shown above.

Medicare contractors shall not grant exceptions if:

- the hospice can correct the NOE without waiting for Medicare systems actions,

- the hospice submits a partial NOE to fulfill the timely-filing requirement, or,
- hospices with multiple provider identifiers submit the identifier of a location that did not actually provide the service.

In the great majority of cases, the five day timely filing period allows enough time to submit NOEs on a day when Medicare systems are available (i.e. the period allows for ("dark days"). Additionally, the receipt date is typically applied to the NOE immediately upon submission to Medicare systems, so subsequent dark days would not affect the determination of timeliness. However, if the hospice can provide documentation showing an NOE is submitted on the day before a dark day period and the NOE does not receive a receipt date until the day following the dark days, the contractor shall grant an exception to the timely filing requirement. CMS expects these cases to be very rare.

Hospices must send the NOE to the A/B MAC (HHH) by mail, electronic data interchange (EDI), or direct data entry (DDE) depending upon the arrangements with the A/B MAC (HHH). EDI submissions require additional data not required by the NOE itself, to satisfy transaction standards. This data is described in a companion guide available on the CMS website at [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/Hospice/index.html](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/Hospice/index.html). Hospices may voluntarily agree to adopt the companion guide and use it to submit EDI NOEs at any time.

If a patient enters hospice care before the month he/she becomes entitled to Medicare benefits, e.g., before age 65, the hospice should not send the NOE before the first day of the month in which he/she becomes 65.

Hospices complete the following data elements when submitting an NOE.

### **Provider Name, Address, and Telephone Number**

The minimum entry for this item is the provider's name, city, State, and ZIP code. The post office box number or street name and number may be included. The State may be abbreviated using standard post office abbreviations. Five or 9-digit ZIP codes are acceptable. Use the information to reconcile provider number discrepancies. Phone and/or FAX numbers are desirable.

### **Type of Bill**

Enter the appropriate 3-digit numeric type of bill code, according to the following code structure:

81A - Hospice (Non-hospital Based) Initial Election Notice

82A - Hospice (Hospital Based) Initial Election Notice

**Statement Covers Period (From-Through)**

The hospice enters the From date of this hospice election. A Through date is not required on NOEs.

**Patient's Name**

The patient's name is shown with the surname first, first name, and middle initial, if any.

**Patient's Address**

The patient's full mailing address including street name and number, post office box number or RFD, city, State, and ZIP code.

**Patient's Birth Date**

Show the month, day, and year of birth numerically as MM-DD-YYYY.

**Patient's Sex**

Show an "M" for male or an "F" for female. This item is used in conjunction with diagnoses and surgical procedures to identify inconsistencies.

**Admission Date**

The hospice enters the admission date, which must be the start date of the benefit period. When a new hospice admission occurs after a hospice revocation or discharge that resulted in termination of the hospice benefit, the new admission date cannot be the same as the revocation or discharge date of the previous benefit period.

The date of admission may not precede the physician's certification by more than 2 calendar days, and is the same as the certification date if the certification is not completed on time.

**EXAMPLE**

The hospice election date (admission) is *01/01/XX*. The physician's certification is dated *01/03/XX*. The hospice date for coverage and billing is *01/01/XX*. The first hospice benefit period ends 90 days from *01/01/XX*.

Show the month, day, and year numerically as MM-DD-YY.

**Condition Codes**

Condition codes are not required on an original NOE. If the hospice is correcting an election date using occurrence code 56, the hospice reports condition code D0. If the two codes are not reported together, the NOE will be returned to the hospice.

### **Occurrence Codes and Dates**

The hospice reports occurrence code 27 and the date of certification. This date must match the From Date and Admission Date.

Hospices may submit an NOE that corrects an election date previously submitted in error. In this case, the hospice reports the correct election date in the From Date, Admission Date and occurrence code 27 fields and reports the original, incorrect election date using occurrence code 56. Medicare systems use the original, incorrect date to find the election record to be corrected, then replaces that election date with the corrected information.

### **Release of Information**

#### **Valid values are:**

- I**- Informed consent to release medical information for condition or diagnoses regulated by Federal Statutes
- Y** - Yes, provider has a signed statement permitting release of information.

### **Provider Number**

The hospice enters their NPI.

### **Insured's Name**

Send all NOEs with Medicare as the primary payer. Enter the beneficiary's name on line A. Show the name exactly as it appears on the beneficiary's HI card.

### **Insured's Unique Identifier**

On the same lettered line (A, B, or C) that corresponds to the line on which Medicare payer information is shown enter the patient's unique identifier by the health plan for the insured. For example, if Medicare is the primary payer, enter the MBI. To ensure accuracy and prevent a delay in the timely receipt or posting the hospice notice of election, hospices should validate this information using the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS). Only in the event that the HETS data is not available should the hospice show the number as it appears on the patient's HI Card, Social Security Award Certificate, Utilization Notice, EOMB, Temporary Eligibility Notice, etc., or as reported by the SSO.

## Principal Diagnosis Code

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service. The official ICD-9-CM codes, which were updated annually through October 1, 2013, are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/codes.html>

The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html> .

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to five digits for ICD-9-CM and up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

## Attending Physician I.D.

*The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.*

## Other Physician I.D.

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/*recertifying* that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. *For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.*

**NOTE:** Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness, only the attending physician *field* is required to be *populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.*

## Provider Representative Signature and Date

A hospice representative must make sure the required physician's certification, and a signed hospice election statement are in the records before signing the Form CMS-1450. A stamped signature is acceptable.

## **20.1.2 - Notice of Termination/Revocation (NOTR)**

*(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24; Effective:06-03-24; Implementation:10-07-24)*

NOTR is used when the hospice beneficiary is discharged alive from the hospice or revokes the election of hospice services. An NOTR should not be used when a patient is transferred.

If a hospice beneficiary is discharged alive or if a hospice beneficiary revokes the election of hospice care, the hospice shall file a timely-filed Notice of Election Termination / Revocation (NOTR), unless it has already filed a final claim. A timely-filed NOTR is a NOTR that is submitted to the A/B MAC (HHH) and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the effective date of discharge or revocation. While a timely-filed NOTR is one that is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice election, posting to the CWF may not occur within that same timeframe. The date of posting to the CWF is not a reflection of whether the NOTR is considered timely-filed.

In order for the NOTR to be accepted into the system, an election period must be established. If the notice of election, which creates the hospice election period is not submitted and posted before the NOTR, the NOTR will be rejected.

### **Type of Bill**

Enter the appropriate 3-digit numeric type of bill code, according to the following code structure:

81B - Hospice (Non-hospital Based) NOTR

82B - Hospice (Hospital Based) NOTR

### **Statement Covers Period (From-Through)**

- The hospice submits the From date on an NOTR differently in the following scenarios: When there is no change in the provider number during the election, the hospice must submit the start date of the election period as the From date on the NOTR.
- If the revocation follows a transfer, the From date on the NOTR must match the START DATE2 on the benefit period that initiated the transfer.
- If the revocation follows a change of ownership, the From date on the NOTR must match the OWNER CHANGE start date on the benefit periods. This process is to ensure that only the provider currently providing services to the beneficiary can submit the NOTR.

In all cases, the Admission Date on the NOTR must match the From date.

### **Patient's Name**

The patient's name is shown with the surname first, first name, and middle initial, if any.

**Patient's Address**

The patient's full mailing address including street name and number, post office box number or RFD, city, State, and ZIP code.

**Patient's Birth Date**

Show the month, day, and year of birth numerically as MM-DD-YYYY.

**Patient's Sex**

Show an "M" for male or an "F" for female. This item is used in conjunction with diagnoses and surgical procedures to identify inconsistencies.

**Admission Date**

The hospice enters the admission date, which must be the start date of the benefit period in all cases except when a transfer occurs.

On a NOTR, the hospice enters the start date of the hospice benefit period in which the discharge or revocation is effective, not the initial hospice admission date.

Show the month, day, and year numerically as MM-DD-YY.

**Facility Zip Code**

Enter the hospice's ZIP code (9-digit). The ZIP code entered must match the ZIP code in the Master Address field of the provider's address file.

**Condition Codes**

Condition codes are not required on an original NOTR. If the hospice is correcting a revocation date using occurrence code 56, the hospice reports condition code D0. If the two codes are not reported together, the NOTR will be returned to the hospice.

**Occurrence Codes and Dates**

Hospices may submit an NOTR that corrects a revocation date previously submitted in error. In this case, the hospice reports the correct revocation date in the Through Date field and reports the original, incorrect revocation date using occurrence code 56. Medicare systems use the original, incorrect date to find the election record to be corrected, then replaces that revocation date with the corrected information.

If a revocation date was submitted entirely in error (for instance, the beneficiary actually transferred to another hospice, rather than revoking their hospice benefit), the hospice can remove the revocation date via Direct Data Entry by submitting TOB 8xB with zeroes in the Through date. The hospice reports the original, incorrect revocation date on the NOTR using occurrence code 56 and indicate the NOTR is a correction by adding condition code D0.

**Release of Information**

**Valid values are:**



- I**- Informed consent to release medical information for condition or diagnoses regulated by Federal Statutes  
**Y** - Yes, provider has a signed statement permitting release of information.

### **Provider Number**

The hospice enters their NPI. Medicare systems ensure that the provider number submitted on the NOTR is the currently active billing provider (e.g. the provider number matches that on the hospice election period or the most recent transfer date or change of ownership date on any benefit period). If any other provider number is submitted, the NOTR is returned.

### **Insured's Name**

Send all NOEs with Medicare as the primary payer. Enter the beneficiary's name on line A. Show the name exactly as it appears on the beneficiary's HI card.

### **Insured's Unique Identifier**

On the same lettered line (A, B, or C) that corresponds to the line on which Medicare payer information is shown enter the patient's unique identifier by the health plan for the insured. For example, if Medicare is the primary payer, enter the MBI. To ensure accuracy and prevent a delay in the timely receipt or posting the hospice notice of election, hospices should validate this information using the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS). Only in the event that the HETS data is not available should the hospice show the number as it appears on the patient's HI Card, Social Security Award Certificate, Utilization Notice, EOMB, Temporary Eligibility Notice, etc., or as reported by the SSO.

### **Principal Diagnosis Code**

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service. The official ICD-9-CM codes, which were updated annually through October 1, 2013, are posted at

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The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to five digits for ICD-9-CM and up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

### **Attending Physician I.D.**

*The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse*

*practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.*

### **Other Physician I.D.**

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/*recertifying* that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. *For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.*

**NOTE:** Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness, only the attending physician *field* is required to be *populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.*

### **Provider Representative Signature and Date**

A hospice representative must make sure the required physician's certification, and a signed hospice election statement are in the records before signing the Form CMS-1450. A stamped signature is acceptable.

### **20.1.3 - Change of Provider/Transfer Notice**

*(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24; Effective:06-03-24; Implementation:10-07-24)*

If the beneficiary is transferred to another hospice (discharge status codes 50 or 51) the claim does not terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period. The admitting hospice submits a transfer notice after the transfer has occurred and the beneficiary's hospice benefit is not affected. The 8XC does not get submitted until after the other provider has finalized their billing.

**NOTE:** Transfers are not allowed from the same provider. Hospices must not submit an 8XC if the CMS Certification Number (CCN) is the same. In this scenario the beneficiary is not transferred to another hospice, they are transferred to another location of the same hospice.

A beneficiary can change hospices only once per benefit period (90-day or 60-day). When the beneficiary transfers to a different hospice, he/she continues in the same benefit period. To transfer hospice programs, the individual or representative must file, with the hospice from which care has been received and with the newly designated hospice, a statement that includes the following information:

- (1) The name of the hospice from which the individual has received care and the name of the hospice from which he or she plans to receive care.
- (2) The date the change is to be effective.

Given that hospices bill for the date of discharge or transfer, for claims purposes, the “From” date for the receiving hospice must be the same as the “Through” date for the transferring hospice, otherwise this would constitute a gap in care and a gap in billing and would not be considered a transfer. For example, if a beneficiary designates that a transfer is to be effective on January 10<sup>th</sup>, the transferring hospice’s “Through” date must be January 10<sup>th</sup> and the receiving hospice’s “From” date must be January 10<sup>th</sup> in order to be a continuous hospice election without a gap in care or billing. That is, the transferring hospice is responsible for the beneficiary up until, and including the transfer date.

If the beneficiary is transferring from outside the service area and the transferring hospice cannot arrange care until the beneficiary reaches the new hospice, the hospice may discharge the beneficiary. This way, if the beneficiary requires medical treatment while in the process of transferring, he/she can access it under his/her traditional Medicare coverage. This would terminate the beneficiary’s current benefit period and require the beneficiary to re-elect hospice coverage at the new hospice and begin a new benefit period.

The hospice transfer will be rejected if the transfer does not occur immediately. If the receiving hospice’s claim “from date” is not the same as the “through date” with “patient status” indicating a transfer (codes 50 or 51), the transfer will be rejected. The edit will not apply to a subsequent claim, if a transfer is posted and the hospice’s claim “from date” is the same as the “transfer date”.

### **Type of Bill**

Enter the appropriate 3-digit numeric type of bill code, according to the following code structure:

81C - Hospice (Non-hospital Based) Change of provider

82C - Hospice (Hospital Based) Change of provider

### **Statement Covers Period (From-Through)**

The “From” date would be the date the change is effective. No through date is required.

### **Patient’s Name**

The patient’s name is shown with the surname first, first name, and middle initial, if any.

### **Patient’s Address**

The patient’s full mailing address including street name and number, post office box number or RFD, city, State, and ZIP code.

### **Patient’s Birth Date**

Show the month, day, and year of birth numerically as MM-DD-YYYY.

### **Patient's Sex**

Show an "M" for male or an "F" for female. This item is used in conjunction with diagnoses and surgical procedures to identify inconsistencies.

### **Admission Date**

The hospice enters the admission date, which must be the start date of the benefit period in all cases except when a transfer occurs. In transfer situations, the receiving hospice should use their own admission date. When a new hospice admission occurs after a hospice revocation or discharge that resulted in termination of the hospice benefit, the new admission date cannot be the same as the revocation or discharge date of the previous benefit period.

Show the month, day, and year numerically as MM-DD-YY.

### **Condition Codes**

Condition codes are not required on an original transfer notice. If the hospice is correcting a date of transfer using occurrence code 56, the hospice reports condition code D0. If the two codes are not reported together, the transfer notice will be returned to the hospice.

### **Occurrence Codes and Dates**

An occurrence code 27 is not required on a transfer notice, unless the date of transfer is also the first day of the next benefit period.

Hospices may submit a transfer notice that corrects a date of transfer previously submitted in error. In this case, the hospice reports the correct effective date of the transfer in the From Date field and reports the original, incorrect effective date using occurrence code 56. Medicare systems use the original, incorrect date to find the benefit period to be corrected, then replaces that date of transfer with the corrected information.

### **Release of Information**

#### **Valid values are:**

- I- Informed consent to release medical information for condition or diagnoses regulated by Federal Statutes
- Y -Yes, provider has a signed statement permitting release of information.

### **Provider Number**

The hospice enters their NPI.

### **Insured's Name**

Send all NOEs with Medicare as the primary payer. Enter the beneficiary's name on line A. Show the name exactly as it appears on the beneficiary's HI card.

### **Insured's Unique Identifier**

On the same lettered line (A, B, or C) that corresponds to the line on which Medicare payer information is shown enter the patient's unique identifier by the health plan for the insured. For example, if Medicare is the primary payer, enter the MBI. To ensure accuracy and prevent a delay in the timely receipt or posting the hospice notice of election, hospices should validate this information using the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS). Only in the event that the HETS data is not available should the hospice show the number as it appears on the patient's HI Card, Social Security Award Certificate, Utilization Notice, EOMB, Temporary Eligibility Notice, etc., or as reported by the SSO.

### **Principal Diagnosis Code**

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service. The official ICD-9-CM codes, which were updated annually through October 1, 2013, are posted at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/codes.html>

The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to five digits for ICD-9-CM and up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

### **Attending Physician I.D.**

*The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.*

### **Other Physician I.D.**

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/*recertifying* that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6

months or less if the disease runs its normal course. *For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.*

**NOTE:** Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness, only the attending physician *field* is required to be *populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.*

### **Provider Representative Signature and Date**

A hospice representative must make sure the required physician's certification, and a signed hospice election statement are in the records before signing the Form CMS-1450. A stamped signature is acceptable.

### **20.1.4 – Cancellation of an Election**

*(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24; Effective:06-03-24; Implementation:10-07-24)*

A cancellation notice is used when the beneficiary will not be receiving services from the hospice, but the admission date has already been entered. The entered dates will be voided since the beneficiary never participated with the hospice.

A cancellation notice removes the hospice election period that was created by an NOE. Cancellation notices are not needed to remove hospice benefit periods, which are automatically removed when all claims in the benefit period are cancelled. See section 20.1.6.

Cancellation notices can also be used to remove a transfer or a change of ownership that was submitted in error.

### **Type of Bill**

Enter the appropriate 3-digit numeric type of bill code, according to the following code structure:

81D - Hospice (Non-hospital Based) Void/Cancel hospice election

82D - Hospice (Hospital Based) Void/Cancel hospice election

### **Statement Covers Period (From-Through)**

When there is no change in the provider number during the election, the hospice enters the election date of the election period that is being canceled. No through date is required. Any claims processed during the election must be cancelled before an election period can be removed.

When there has been a transfer or change of ownership, the From date on the 8xD must match the corresponding transfer or change date to ensure those dates are removed correctly.

### **Patient's Name**

The patient's name is shown with the surname first, first name, and middle initial, if any.

### **Patient's Address**

The patient's full mailing address including street name and number, post office box number or RFD, city, State, and ZIP code.

### **Patient's Birth Date**

Show the month, day, and year of birth numerically as MM-DD-YYYY.

### **Patient's Sex**

Show an "M" for male or an "F" for female. This item is used in conjunction with diagnoses and surgical procedures to identify inconsistencies.

### **Admission Date**

Show the month, day, and year numerically as MM-DD-YY.

When there has been a transfer or change of ownership, the admit date on the 8xD must match the corresponding transfer or change date to ensure those dates are removed correctly.

### **Release of Information**

#### **Valid values are:**

- I-Informed consent to release medical information for condition or diagnoses regulated by Federal Statutes,
- Y-Yes, provider has a signed statement permitting release of information.

### **Provider Number**

The hospice enters their NPI.

### **Insured's Name**

Send all NOEs with Medicare as the primary payer. Enter the beneficiary's name on line A. Show the name exactly as it appears on the beneficiary's HI card.

## **Insured's Unique Identifier**

On the same lettered line (A, B, or C) that corresponds to the line on which Medicare payer information is shown enter the patient's unique identifier by the health plan for the insured. For example, if Medicare is the primary payer, enter the MBI. To ensure accuracy and prevent a delay in the timely receipt or posting the hospice notice of election, hospices should validate this information using the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS). Only in the event that the HETS data is not available should the hospice show the number as it appears on the patient's HI Card, Social Security Award Certificate, Utilization Notice, EOMB, Temporary Eligibility Notice, etc., or as reported by the SSO.

## **Principal Diagnosis Code**

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service. The official ICD-9-CM codes, which were updated annually through October 1, 2013, are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/codes.html>

The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to five digits for ICD-9-CM and up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

## **Attending Physician I.D.**

*The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.*

## **Other Physician I.D.**

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/*recertifying* that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. *For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.*

**NOTE:** Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the



physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness, only the attending physician *field* is required to be *populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.*

### **Provider Representative Signature and Date**

A hospice representative must make sure the required physician's certification, and a signed hospice election statement are in the records before signing the Form CMS-1450. A stamped signature is acceptable. If the beneficiary is transferred to another hospice (discharge status codes 50 or 51) the claim does not terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period. The admitting hospice submits a transfer notice after the transfer has occurred and the beneficiary's hospice benefit is not affected. The 8XC does not get submitted until after the other provider has finalized their billing.

### **20.1.5 – Change of Ownership Notice**

*(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24; Effective:06-03-24; Implementation:10-07-24)*

A change of ownership notice is used when the beneficiary will remain with the same hospice, but the person or group running the hospice is changing. A change of ownership typically occurs when a Medicare provider has been purchased (or leased) by another organization.

### **Type of Bill**

Enter the appropriate 3-digit numeric type of bill code, according to the following code structure:

81E - Hospice (Non-hospital Based) Change of Ownership

82E - Hospice (Hospital Based) Change of Ownership

### **Statement Covers Period (From-Through)**

The "From" date would be the date the change is effective. No through date is required.

### **Patient's Name**

The patient's name is shown with the surname first, first name, and middle initial, if any.

### **Patient's Address**

The patient's full mailing address including street name and number, post office box number or RFD, city, State, and ZIP code.

### **Patient's Birth Date**

Show the month, day, and year of birth numerically as MM-DD-YYYY.

## **Patient's Sex**

Show an "M" for male or an "F" for female. This item is used in conjunction with diagnoses and surgical procedures to identify inconsistencies.

## **Admission Date**

The hospice enters the admission date, which must be the start date of the benefit period in all cases except when a transfer occurs.

The date of admission may not precede the physician's certification by more than 2 calendar days, and is the same as the certification date if the certification is not completed on time.

## **EXAMPLE**

The hospice election date (admission) is *01/01/XX*. The physician's certification is dated *01/03/XX*. The hospice date for coverage and billing is *01/01/XX*. The first hospice benefit period ends 90 days from *01/01/XX*. Show the month, day, and year numerically as MM-DD-YY.

## **Condition Codes**

Condition codes are not required on an original change of ownership notice. If the hospice is correcting the effective date of a change using occurrence code 56, the hospice reports condition code D0. If the two codes are not reported together, the transfer notice will be returned to the hospice.

## **Occurrence Codes and Dates**

Hospices may submit a change of ownership notice that corrects the effective date of a change previously submitted in error. In this case, the hospice reports the correct effective date of the change of ownership in the From Date field and reports the original, incorrect effective date using occurrence code 56. Medicare systems use the original, incorrect date to find the benefit period to be corrected, then replaces the effective date of the change of ownership with the corrected information.

## **Release of Information**

### **Valid values are:**

- I**-Informed consent to release medical information for condition or diagnoses regulated by Federal Statutes,
- Y**-Yes, provider has a signed statement permitting release of information.

## **Provider Number**

The hospice enters their NPI. When a hospice agency changes ownership and a new Medicare provider number issued, the A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) must be notified to update the provider number in the hospice period. This will avoid mistaking the change as a beneficiary-elected transfer.

## **Insured's Name**

Send all NOEs with Medicare as the primary payer. Enter the beneficiary's name on line A. Show the name exactly as it appears on the beneficiary's HI card.

## **Insured's Unique Identifier**

On the same lettered line (A, B, or C) that corresponds to the line on which Medicare payer information is shown enter the patient's unique identifier by the health plan for the insured. For example, if Medicare is the primary payer, enter the MBI. To ensure accuracy and prevent a delay in the timely receipt or posting the hospice notice of election, hospices should validate this information using the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS). Only in the event that the HETS data is not available should the hospice show the number as it appears on the patient's HI Card, Social Security Award Certificate, Utilization Notice, EOMB, Temporary Eligibility Notice, etc., or as reported by the SSO.

## **Principal Diagnosis Code**

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service. The official ICD-9-CM codes, which were updated annually through October 1, 2013, are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/codes.html>

The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to five digits for ICD-9-CM and up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

## **Attending Physician I.D.**

*The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.*

## **Other Physician I.D.**

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/*recertifying* that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. *For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.*

**NOTE:** Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness, only the attending physician *field* is required to be *populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.*

## **Provider Representative Signature and Date**

A hospice representative must make sure the required physician's certification, and a signed hospice election statement are in the records before signing the Form CMS-1450. A stamped signature is acceptable.

## **30.3 - Data Required on the Institutional Claim to A/B MAC (HHH)** *(Rev. 12635; Issued:05-10-24; Effective:06-03-24; Implementation:10-07-24)*

See Pub. 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, chapter 9, for coverage requirements for Hospice benefits. This section addresses only claims submission. Before submitting claims, the hospice must submit a Notice of Election (NOE) to the A/B MAC (HHH). See section 20, of this chapter for information on NOE transaction types.

The Social Security Act at §1862 (a)(22) requires that all claims for Medicare payment must be submitted in an electronic form specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, unless an exception described at §1862 (h) applies. The electronic format required for billing hospice services is the ASC X12 837 institutional claim transaction.

Since the data structure of this transaction is difficult to express in narrative form and to provide assistance to small providers excepted from the electronic claim requirement, the instructions below are given relative to the data element names on the Form CMS-1450 hardcopy form. Each data element name is shown in bold type. Information regarding the form locator numbers that correspond to these data element names is found in Chapter 25.

Because claim formats serve the needs of many payers, some data elements may not be needed by a particular payer. Detailed information is given only for items required for Medicare hospice claims. Items not listed need not be completed although hospices may complete them when billing multiple payers.

## **Provider Name, Address, and Telephone Number**

The hospice enters this information for their agency.

**Type of Bill**

The hospice enters on of the following Type of Bill codes:

081x – Hospice (non-hospital based)

082x – Hospice (hospital based)

<b>4th Digit – Frequency</b>	<b>Definition</b>
0 - Nonpayment/Zero Claims	Used when no payment from Medicare is anticipated.
1 - Admit Through Discharge Claim	This code is used for a bill encompassing an entire course of hospice treatment for which the provider expects payment from the payer, i.e., no further bills will be submitted for this patient.
2 - Interim – First Claim	This code is used for the first of an expected series of payment bills for a hospice course of treatment.
3 - Interim - Continuing Claim	This code is used when a payment bill for a hospice course of treatment has already been submitted and further bills are expected to be submitted.
<b>4th Digit – Frequency</b>	<b>Definition</b>
4 - Interim - Last Claim	This code is used for a payment bill that is the last of a series for a hospice course of treatment. The “Through” date of this bill is the discharge date, transfer date, or date of death.
7 - Replacement of Prior Claim	This code is used by the provider when it wants to correct a previously submitted bill. This is the code used on the corrected or “new” bill.
8 - Void/Cancel of a Prior Claim	This code is used to cancel a previously processed claim.

**Statement Covers Period (From-Through)**

The hospice shows the beginning and ending dates of the period covered by this bill in numeric fields (MM-DD-YY). The hospice does not show days before the patient’s entitlement began.

Statement periods should follow the frequency of billing instructions in section 90.

**Patient Name/Identifier**

The hospice enters the beneficiary's name exactly as it appears on the Medicare card.

**Patient Address Patient Birth date Patient Sex**

The hospice enters the appropriate address, date of birth and gender information describing the beneficiary.

**Admission/Start of Care Date**

The hospice enters the admission date, which must be the same date as the effective date of the hospice election or change of election. The date of admission may not precede the physician's certification by more than 2 calendar days.

The admission date stays the same on all continuing claims for the same hospice election.

**Patient Discharge Status**

This code indicates the patient's status as of the "Through" date of the billing period. The hospice enters the most appropriate National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) approved code.

**NOTE:** that patient discharge status code 20 is not used on hospice claims. If the patient has died during the billing period, use codes 40, 41 or 42 as appropriate.

Medicare regulations at 42 CFR 418.26 define three reasons for discharge from hospice care:

- 1) The beneficiary moves out of the hospice's service area or transfers to another hospice,
- 2) The hospice determines that the beneficiary is no longer terminally ill or
- 3) The hospice determines the beneficiary meets their internal policy regarding discharge for cause.

Each of these discharge situations requires different coding on Medicare claims. Reason 1: A beneficiary may move out of the hospice's service area either with, or without, a transfer to another hospice. In the case of a discharge when the beneficiary moves out of the hospice's service area without a transfer, the hospice uses the NUBC approved discharge status code that best describes the beneficiary's situation and appends condition code 52. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. This discharge claim will terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period as of the "Through" date on the claim. The beneficiary may re-elect the hospice benefit at any time as long they remain eligible for the benefit.

In the case of a discharge when the beneficiary moves out of the hospice's service area and transfers to another hospice, the hospice uses discharge status code 50 or 51, depending on whether the beneficiary is transferring to home hospice or hospice in a

medical facility. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. This discharge claim does not terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period. The admitting hospice submits a transfer Notice of Election (type of bill 8xC) after the transfer has occurred and the beneficiary's hospice benefit is not affected.

Reason 2: In the case of a discharge when the hospice determines the beneficiary is no longer terminally ill, the hospice uses the NUBC approved discharge status code that best describes the beneficiary's situation. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. This discharge claim will terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period as of the "Through" date on the claim.

Reason 3: In the case of a discharge for cause, the hospice uses the NUBC approved discharge status code that best describes the beneficiary's situation. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. Instead, the hospice reports condition code H2 to indicate a discharge for cause. The effect of this discharge claim on the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period depends on the discharge status.

If the beneficiary is transferred to another hospice (discharge status codes 50 or 51) the claim does not terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period. The admitting hospice submits a transfer Notice of Election (type of bill 8xC) after the transfer has occurred and the beneficiary's hospice benefit is not affected. If any other appropriate discharge status code is used, this discharge claim will terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period as of the "Through" date on the claim. The beneficiary may reelect the hospice benefit if they are certified as terminally ill and eligible for the benefit again in the future and are willing to be compliant with care.

If the beneficiary has chosen to revoke their hospice election, the provider uses the NUBC approved discharge patient status code and the occurrence code 42 indicating the date the beneficiary revoked the benefit. The beneficiary may re-elect the hospice benefit if they are certified as terminally ill and eligible for the benefit again in the future.

<b>Discharge Reason</b>	<b>Coding Required in Addition to Patient Status Code</b>
Beneficiary Moves Out of Service Area	Condition Code 52
Beneficiary Transfers Hospices	Patient Status Code 50 or 51; no other indicator
Beneficiary No Longer Terminally Ill	No other indicator
Beneficiary Discharged for Cause	Condition code H2
Beneficiary Revokes	Occurrence code 42

If a hospice beneficiary is discharged alive or if a hospice beneficiary revokes the election of hospice care, the hospice shall file a timely-filed Notice of Election Termination / Revocation (NOTR) using type of bill 8xB, unless it has already filed a final claim. A timely-filed NOTR is a NOTR that is submitted to the A/B MAC (HHH) and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the effective date of discharge or revocation. While a timely-filed NOTR is one that is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice election, posting to the CWF may not occur within that same timeframe. The date of posting to the CWF is not a reflection of whether the NOTR is considered timely filed. A NOTR (type of bill 8xB) is entered via Direct Data Entry in the same way as an NOE (type of bill 8xA). Hospices continue to have 12 months from the date of service in which to file their claims timely.

A patient can also be admitted and discharged on the same day. They would submit an 8x1 Type of Bill (“Admission through Discharge Claim”), matching “From” and “Through” dates, and whatever the appropriate level of care the revenue code was, with 1 unit. A patient cannot be discharged and re-admitted to the same hospice on the same day.

#### Untimely Face-to-Face Encounters and Discharge

When a required face-to-face encounter occurs prior to, but no more than 30 calendar days prior to, the third benefit period recertification and every benefit period recertification thereafter, it is considered timely. A timely face-to-face encounter would be evident when examining the face-to-face attestation, which is part of the recertification, as that attestation includes the date of the encounter. While the face-to-face encounter itself must occur no more than 30 calendar days prior to the start of the third benefit period recertification and each subsequent recertification, its accompanying attestation must be completed before the claim is submitted.

If the required face-to-face encounter is not timely, the hospice would be unable to recertify the patient as being terminally ill, and the patient would cease to be eligible for the Medicare hospice benefit. In such instances, the hospice must discharge the patient from the Medicare hospice benefit because he or she is not considered terminally ill for Medicare purposes.

When a discharge from the Medicare hospice benefit occurs due to failure to perform a required face-to-face encounter timely, the claim should include the most appropriate patient discharge status code. Occurrence span code 77 does not apply when the face-to-face encounter has not occurred timely.

The hospice can re-admit the patient to the Medicare hospice benefit once the required encounter occurs, provided the patient continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements and the patient (or representative) files an election statement in accordance with CMS regulations. Where the only reason the patient ceases to be eligible for the



Medicare hospice benefit is the hospice's failure to meet the face-to-face requirement, CMS would expect the hospice to continue to care for the patient at its own expense until the required encounter occurs, enabling the hospice to re-establish Medicare eligibility.

### Condition Codes

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) identifying conditions related to this bill that may affect processing.

Codes listed below are only those most frequently applicable to hospice claims. For a complete list of codes, see the NUBC manual.

07	Treatment of Nonterminal Condition for Hospice	Code indicates the patient has elected hospice care, but the provider is not treating the terminal condition, and is, therefore, requesting regular Medicare payment.
20	Beneficiary Requested Billing	Code indicates the provider realizes the services on this bill are at a noncovered level of care or otherwise excluded from coverage, but the beneficiary has requested a formal determination.
21	Billing for Denial Notice	Code indicates the provider realizes services are at a noncovered level of care or excluded, but requests a denial notice from Medicare in order to bill Medicaid or other insurers.
H2	Discharge by a Hospice Provider for Cause	Discharge by a Hospice Provider for Cause.  <b>NOTE:</b> Used by the provider to indicate the patient meets the hospice's documented policy addressing discharges for cause.
52	Out of Hospice Service Area	Code indicates the patient is discharged for moving out of the hospice service area. This can include patients who relocate or who go on vacation outside of the hospice's service area, or
		patients who are admitted to a hospital or SNF that does not have contractual arrangements with the hospice.
85	Delayed recertification of hospice terminal illness	Code indicates the hospice received the recertification of terminal illness later than 2 days after the first day of a new benefit period. This code is reported with occurrence span code 77, which reports the provider liable days associated with the untimely recertification.

## Occurrence Codes and Dates

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) and associated date(s) defining specific event(s) relating to this billing period. Event codes are two numeric digits, and dates are six numeric digits (MM-DD-YY). If there are more occurrences than there are spaces on the form, use the occurrence span code fields to record additional occurrences and dates.

Codes listed below are only those most frequently applicable to hospice claims. For a complete list of codes, see the NUBC manual.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
23	Cancellation of Hospice Election Period (A/B MAC (HHH) USE ONLY)	Code indicates date on which a hospice period of election is cancelled by an A/B MAC (HHH) as opposed to revocation by the beneficiary.
24	Date Insurance Denied	Code indicates the date of receipt of a denial of coverage by a higher priority payer.
27	Date of Hospice Certification or Recertification	Code indicates the date of certification or recertification of the hospice benefit period, beginning with the first 2 initial benefit periods of 90 days each and the subsequent 60-day benefit periods.  <b>NOTE:</b> regarding transfers from one hospice to another hospice: If a patient is in the first certification period when they transfer to another hospice, the receiving hospice would use the same certification date as the previous hospice until the next certification period. However, if they were in the next certification at the time of transfer, then they would enter that date in the Occurrence Code 27 and date.
42	Date of Termination of Hospice Benefit	Enter code to indicate the date on which beneficiary terminated his/her election to receive hospice benefits. This code can be used only when the
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
		beneficiary has revoked the benefit. It is not used in transfer situations.

55	Beneficiary is Deceased	Report the appropriate NUBC discharge status code that best describes the place in which the beneficiary died (40, 41, or 42). Discharge status code 20 is not used on hospice claims.
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Occurrence code 27 is required on the claim for the billing period in which the certification or re-certification was obtained. It may be optionally reported on other claims.

When the re-certification is late and not obtained during the month it was due, the occurrence span code 77 should be reported with the through date of the span code equal to the through date of the claim.

### **Occurrence Span Code and Dates**

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) and associated beginning and ending date(s) defining a specific event relating to this billing period are shown. Event codes are two alphanumeric digits and dates are shown numerically as MM-DDYY.

Codes listed below are only those most frequently applicable to hospice claims. For a complete list of codes, see the NUBC manual.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
M2	Dates of Inpatient Respite Care	Code indicates From/Through dates of a period of inpatient respite care for hospice patients to differentiate separate respite periods of less than 5 days each. M2 is used when respite care is provided more than once during a billing period.
77	Provider Liability – Utilization Charged	Code indicates From/Through dates for a period of non-covered hospice care for which the provider accepts payment liability (other than for medical necessity or custodial care).

Respite care is payable only for periods of respite up to 5 consecutive days. Claims reporting respite periods greater than 5 consecutive days will be returned to the provider. Days of respite care beyond 5 days must be billed at the appropriate home care rate for payment consideration.

For example: If the patient enters a respite period on July 1 and is returned to routine home care on July 6, the units of respite reported on the line item would be 5 representing July 1 through July 5, July 6 is reported as a day of routine home care regardless of the time of day entering respite or returning to routine home care.

When there is more than one respite period in the billing period, the provider must include the M2 occurrence span code for all periods of respite. The individual respite periods reported shall not exceed 5 days, including consecutive respite periods.

For example: If the patient enters a respite period on July 1 and is returned to routine home care on July 6 and later returns to respite care from July 15 to July 18, and completes the month on routine home care, the provider must report two separate line items for the respite periods and two occurrence span code M2, as follows:

Revenue Line items:

- Revenue code 0655 with line item date of service 07/01/XX (for respite period July 1 through July 5) and line item units reported as 5
- Revenue code 0651 with line item date of service 07/06/XX (for routine home care July 6 through July 14) and line item units reported as 9
- Revenue code 0655 with line item date of service 07/15/XX (for respite period July 15 through 17<sup>th</sup>) and line item units reported as 3
- Revenue code 0651 with line item date of service 07/18/XX (for routine home care on date of discharge from respite through July 31 and line item units reported as 14.

Occurrence Span Codes:

- M2 0701XX – 07/05/XX
- M2 0715XX – 07/17/XX

Provider Liability Periods Using Occurrence Span Code 77: Hospices must use occurrence span code 77 to identify days of care that are not covered by Medicare due to:

- Untimely physician recertification. This is particularly important when the noncovered days fall at the beginning of a billing period other than the initial certification period.

Example:

A new benefit period begins on 6/14/20XX

The hospice is required to obtain the recertification (verbal or written) by 6/16/20XX.

The hospice obtains the recertification 6/19/20XX.

The hospice reports 6/14 – 6/18 as non-covered days using occurrence span code 77.

The hospice reports the date the certification was actually obtained, 6/19/20XX, in occurrence code 27.

Condition code 85 is only reported in this case because the certification was untimely.

- Late-filing of a Notice of Election (NOE). A timely-filed NOE is a NOE that is submitted to the A/B MAC (HHH) and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice admission date. When the hospice files a NOE late, Medicare shall not cover and pay for the days of hospice care from the hospice admission date to the date the NOE is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH). The date the NOE is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) is an allowable day for payment.

Example:

Admission date is 10/10/20XX (Fri).

Day 1 = Sat. 10/11/20XX

Day 2 = Sun. 10/12/20XX

Day 3 = Mon. 10/13/20XX

Day 4 = Tues. 10/14/20XX

Day 5 = Weds. 10/15/20XX 10/15/20XX is the NOE Due Date.

IF NOE Receipt date is 10/16/20XX, the hospice reports 10/10- 10/15 as noncovered days using occurrence span code 77 or Medicare systems return the claim to the provider for correction.

### **Value Codes and Amounts**

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) and the associated value amounts identifying numeric information related to this bill that may affect processing. Provider-submitted codes:

The most commonly used value codes on hospice claims are value codes 61 and G8, which are used to report the location of the site of hospice services. Otherwise, value codes are commonly used only to indicate Medicare is secondary to another payer. For detailed information on reporting Medicare secondary payer information, see the Medicare Secondary Payer Manual.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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61	Place of Residence where Service is Furnished (Routine Home Care and Continuous Home Care)	<p>MSA or Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) number (or rural State code) of the location where the hospice service is delivered.</p> <p>A residence can be an inpatient facility if an individual uses that facility as a place of residence. It is the level of care that is required and not the location where hospice services are provided that determines payment. In other words, if an individual resides in a freestanding hospice facility and requires routine home care, then claims are submitted for routine home care.</p> <p>Hospices must report value code 61 when billing revenue codes 0651 and 0652.</p>
G8	Facility where Inpatient Hospice Service is Delivered (General Inpatient and Inpatient Respite Care).	<p>MSA or Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) number (or rural State code) of the facility where inpatient hospice services are delivered.</p> <p>Hospices must report value code G8 when billing revenue codes 0655 and 0656.</p>

Medicare-applied codes: The following codes are added during processing and may be visible in the A/B MAC (HHH)'s online claim history. They are never submitted by the hospice.

Code	Title	Definition
62	Number of High Routine Home Care Days	Days that fall within the first 60 days of a routine home care hospice claim. The Medicare system puts the high days returned by Pricer on the claim as a value code 62 amount.
63	Number of Low Routine Home Care Days	Days that come after the first 60 days of a routine home care hospice claim. The Medicare system puts the low days returned by Pricer on the claim as a value code 63 amount.

If hospice services are provided to the beneficiary in more than one CBSA area during the billing period, the hospice reports the CBSA that applies at the end of the billing period. For routine home care and continuous home care (e.g., the beneficiary's residence changes between locations in different CBSAs), report the CBSA of the beneficiary's residence at the end of the billing period. For general inpatient and inpatient respite care (e.g., the beneficiary is served in inpatient facilities in different

CBSAs), report the CBSA of the latest facility that served the beneficiary. If the beneficiary receives both home and inpatient care during the billing period, the latest home CBSA is reported with value code 61 and the latest facility CBSA is reported with value code G8.

### Revenue Codes

The hospice assigns a revenue code for each type of service provided and enters the appropriate four-digit numeric revenue code to explain each charge.

Hospice claims are required to report separate line items for the level of care each time the level of care changes. This includes revenue codes 0651, 0655 and 0656. For example, if a patient begins the month receiving routine home care followed by a period of general inpatient care and then later returns to routine home care all in the same month, in addition to the one line reporting the general inpatient care days, there should be two separate line items for routine home care. Each routine home care line reports a line item date of service to indicate the first date that level of care began for that consecutive period.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Standard Abbreviation</b>
0651	Routine Home Care	RTN Home
0652	Continuous Home Care	CTNS Home  A minimum of 8 hours of primarily nursing care within a 24-hour period. The 8-hours of care do not need to be continuous within the 24-hour period, but a need for an aggregate of 8 hours of primarily nursing care is required. Nursing care must be provided by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse. If skilled intervention is required for less than 8 aggregate hours (or less than 32 units) within a 24 hour period, then the care rendered would be covered as a routine home care day. Services provided by a nurse practitioner as the attending physician are not included in the CHC computation nor is care that is not directly related to the crisis included in the computation. CHC billing should reflect direct patient care during a period of crisis and should not reflect time related to staff working hours, time taken for meal breaks, time used for educating staff, time used to report etc.
0655**	Inpatient Respite Care	IP Respite
0656**	General Inpatient Care	GNL IP

0657	Physician Services	PHY SER (must be accompanied by a physician procedure code)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ** The date of discharge from general inpatient or inpatient respite care is paid at the appropriate home care rate and must be billed with the appropriate home care revenue code unless the patient is deceased at time of discharge in which case, the appropriate inpatient respite or general inpatient care revenue code should be used.</li> </ul>		

NOTE: Hospices use revenue code 0657 to identify hospice charges for services furnished to patients by physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants employed by the hospice; or physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants receiving compensation from the hospice. Procedure codes are required in order for the A/B MAC (HHH) to determine the reimbursement rate for the physician services. Appropriate procedure codes are available from the A/B MAC (HHH).

Additional revenue codes are reported describing the visits provided under each level of care.

To constitute a visit, the discipline, (as defined above) must have provided care to the beneficiary. Services provided by a social worker to the beneficiary's family also constitute a visit. For example, documentation in the medical/clinical record, interdisciplinary group meetings, obtaining physician orders, rounds in a facility or any other activity that is not related to the provision of items or services to a beneficiary, do not count towards a visit to be placed on the claim. During an initial or comprehensive assessment, it would not be best practice to wait until later (after the clinician has left the home) to document the findings of an assessment or the interventions provided during a patient visit. It is recommended that this information be documented as close to the time of the assessment or intervention as possible. In addition, the visit must be reasonable and necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions as described in the patient's plan of care.

If a hospice patient is receiving routine home care while residing in a nursing home, the hospice would record visits for all of its physicians, nurses, social workers, and home health aides who visit the patient to provide care for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions, as described in the patient's plan of care. In this example the nursing home is acting as the patient's home. Only the patient care provided by the hospice staff constitutes a visit.

When making the determination as to whether or not a particular visit should be reported, a hospice should consider whether the visit would have been reported, and how it would have been reported, if the patient were receiving RHC in his or her private home. If a group of tasks would normally be performed in a single visit to a patient living in his or her private home, then the hospice should count the tasks as a single visit for the patient residing in a facility. Hospices should not record a visit every time a staff member enters



the patient's room. Hospices should use clinical judgment in counting visits and summing time.

Hospices report social worker phone calls and all visits performed by hospice staff in 15-minute increments using the following revenue codes and associated HCPCS. This includes visits by hospice nurses, aides, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

All visits to provide care related to the palliation and management of the terminal illness or related conditions, whether provided by hospice employees or provided under arrangement, must be reported. The two exceptions are related to General Inpatient Care and Respite care. CMS is not requiring hospices to report visit data at this time for visits made by non-hospice staff providing General Inpatient Care or respite care in contract facilities. However, General Inpatient Care or respite care visits related to the palliation and management of the terminal illness or related conditions provided by hospice staff in contract facilities must be reported, and all General Inpatient Care and respite care visits related to the palliation and management of the terminal illness or related conditions provided in hospice-owned facilities must be reported.

Social worker phone calls made to the patient or the patient's family should be reported using revenue code 0569, and HCPCS G-code G0155 for the length of the call, with each call being a separate line item. Only phone calls that are necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions as described in the patient's plan of care (such as counseling or speaking with a patient's family or arranging for a placement) should be reported. Report only social worker phone calls related to providing and or coordinating care to the patient and family and documented as such in the clinical records.

When recording any visit or social worker phone call time, providers should sum the time for each visit or call, rounding to the nearest 15-minute increment. Providers should not include travel time or documentation time in the time recorded for any visit or call. Additionally, hospices may not include interdisciplinary group time in time and visit reporting.

For dates of service before October 1, 2018, Hospice agencies shall report injectable and non-injectable prescription drugs for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions on their claims. Both injectable and non-injectable prescription drugs shall be reported on claims on a line-item basis per fill, based on the amount dispensed by the pharmacy.

When a facility (hospital, SNF, NF, or hospice inpatient facility) uses a medication management system where each administration of a hospice medication is considered a fill for hospice patients receiving care, the hospice shall report a monthly total for each drug (i.e., report a total for the period covered by the claim), along with the total dispensed.

Hospices shall report multi-ingredient compound prescription drugs (non-injectable) using revenue code 0250. The hospice shall specify the same prescription number for each ingredient of a compound drug according to the 837i guidelines in loop 2410. In addition, the hospice shall provide the NDC for each ingredient in the compound; the NDC qualifier represents the quantity of the drug filled (meaning the amount dispensed) and shall be reported as the unit measure.

When reporting prescription drugs in a comfort kit/pack, the hospice shall report the NDC of each prescription drug within the package, in accordance with the procedures for non-injectable prescriptions.

Hospice agencies shall report infusion pumps (a type of DME) on a line-item basis for each pump and for each medication fill and refill. The hospice claim shall reflect the total charge for the infusion pump for the period covered by the claim, whether the hospice is billed for it daily, weekly, biweekly, with each medication refill, or in some other fashion. The hospice shall include on the claim the infusion pump charges on whatever basis is easiest for its billing systems, so long as in total, the claim reflects the charges for the pump for the time period of that claim.

Effective for dates of service on and after 10/1/2018, hospices are no longer required to report drugs using line item detail. Hospices may report summary charges for drugs as shown in the table below.

Hospices must enter the following visit revenue codes, when applicable:

Revenue Code	Required HCPCS	Required Detail
0250 Non-injectable Prescription Drugs	N/A	Required detail: Report on a line-item basis per fill, using revenue code 0250 and the National Drug Code (NDC). The NDC qualifier represents the quantity of the drug filled and should be reported as the unit measure. For dates of service on and after 10/1/2018: Report a monthly charge total for all drugs (i.e., report a total charge amount for the period covered by the claim) using revenue code 0250.

029X Infusion pumps	Applicable HCPCS  N/A	Required detail: Report on the claim on a line item basis per pump order and per medication refill, using revenue code 029X for the equipment and 0294 for the drugs along with the appropriate HCPCS. For dates of service on and after 10/1/18: Report a monthly charge total for infusion DME (i.e., report a total charge amount for the period covered by the claim), including DME infusion drugs, using revenue center 029X for the infusion pumps and 0294 for DME infusion drugs.
042x Physical Therapy	G0151 or G0157	Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description.
043x Occupational Therapy	G0152 or G0158	Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description.
044x Speech Therapy – Language Pathology	G0153	Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description.
055x Skilled Nursing	G0299 or G0300	Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description.
056x Medical Social Services	G0155	Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description.

0569 Other Medical Social Services	G0155	Required detail: Each social service phone call is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the call defined in the HCPCS description.
057x Aide	G0156	Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description.
0636 Injectable Drugs	Applicable HCPCS	Required detail: Report on a line item basis per fill with units representing the amount filled. (i.e., Q1234 Drug 100mg and the fill was for 200 mg, units reported = 2). For dates of service on and after 10/1/2018: Revenue code 0636 is not required.

*\* If revenue code 656 with HCPCS Q5006 is reported on a claim, then claim lines with a visit revenue code 055x, 056x, or 057x do not need a corresponding visit HCPCS codes if those lines fall under the general inpatient revenue code line (656/Q5006) dates.*

Visits by registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and nurse practitioners (unless the nurse practitioner is acting as the beneficiary's attending physician) are reported under revenue code 055x. *Hospices shall use G0299 for "direct skilled nursing services of a registered nurse (RN) in the home health or hospice setting" and G0300 "direct skilled nursing of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the home health or hospice setting."*

Charges associated with the reported visits are covered under the hospice bundled payment and reflected in the payment for the level of care billed on the claim. No additional payment is made on the visit revenue lines.

The contractor shall use the following remittance advice messages and associated codes when bundling line items under this policy. This CARC/RARC combination is compliant with CAQH CORE Business Scenario Four. Group Code: CO

CARC: 97

RARC: N/A

MSN: N/A

Hospices should report in the unit field on the line level the units as a multiplier of the visit time defined in the HCPCS description.

For information regarding the billing requirements for Coverage of Kidney Disease Patient Education Services under hospice see Chapter 32, §20.1).

**HCPCS/Accommodation Rates/HIPPS Rate Codes**

Hospices must report a HCPCS code along with each level of care revenue code (651, 652, 655 and 656) to identify the type of service location where that level of care was provided.

The following HCPCS codes will be used to report the type of service location for hospice services:

<b>HCPCS Code</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Q5001	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN PATIENT'S HOME/RESIDENCE
Q5002	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY
Q5003	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN NURSING LONG TERM CARE FACILITY (LTC) OR NON-SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (NF)
Q5004	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (SNF)
Q5005	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN INPATIENT HOSPITAL
Q5006	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN INPATIENT HOSPICE FACILITY
Q5007	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN LONG TERM CARE HOSPITAL (LTCH)
Q5008	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY
Q5009	HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN PLACE NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED (NOS)
Q5010	Hospice home care provided in a hospice facility

If care is rendered at multiple locations, each location is to be identified on the claim with a corresponding HCPCS code. For example, routine home care may be provided for a portion of the billing period in the patient’s residence and another portion in an assisted living facility. In this case, report one revenue code 651 line with HCPCS code Q5001 and the number of days of routine home care provided in the residence and another revenue code 651 line with HCPCS code Q5002 and the number of days of routine home care provided in the assisted living facility.

Q5004 shall be used for hospice patients in a skilled nursing facility (SNF), or hospice patients in the SNF portion of a dually-certified nursing facility. There are 4 situations where this would occur:

- 1) If the beneficiary is receiving hospice care in a solely-certified SNF.
- 2) If the beneficiary is receiving general inpatient care in the SNF.

- 3) If the beneficiary is in a SNF receiving SNF care under the Medicare SNF benefit for a condition unrelated to the terminal illness and related conditions, and is receiving hospice routine home care; this is uncommon.
- 4) If the beneficiary is receiving inpatient respite care in a SNF.

If a beneficiary is in a nursing facility but doesn't meet the criteria above for Q5004, the site shall be coded as Q5003, for a long term care nursing facility.

General inpatient care provided by hospice staff requires line item visit reporting in units of 15 minute increments when provided in the following sites of service: Skilled Nursing Facility (Q5004), Inpatient Hospital (Q5005), Long Term Care Hospital (Q5007), Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (Q5008).

These service location HCPCS codes are not required on revenue code lines describing the visits provided under each level of care. These lines report the HCPCS codes shown in the table under Revenue Codes.

### **Modifiers**

The following modifier is required reporting for claims:

PM – Post-mortem visits. Hospices shall report visits and length of visits (rounded to the nearest 15-minute increment), for nurses, aides, social workers, and therapists who are employed by the hospice, that occur on the date of death, after the patient has passed away. Post mortem visits occurring on a date subsequent to the date of death are not to be reported. The reporting of post-mortem visits, on the date of death, should occur regardless of the patient's level of care or site of service. Date of death is defined as the date of death reported on the death certificate. Hospices shall report hospice visits that occur before death on a separate line from those which occur after death.

For example, assume that a nurse arrives at the home at 9 pm to provide routine home care (RHC) to a dying patient, and that the patient passes away at 11 pm. The nurse stays with the family until 1:30 am. The hospice should report a nursing visit with eight 15-minute time units for the visit from 9 pm to 11 pm. On a separate line, the hospice should report a nursing visit with a PM modifier with four 15-minute time units for the portion of the visit from 11 pm to midnight to account for the 1 hour post mortem visit.

If the patient passes away suddenly, and the hospice nurse does not arrive until after his death at 11:00 pm, and remains with the family until 1:30 am, then the hospice should report a line item nursing visit with a PM modifier and four 15-minute increments of time as the units to account for the 1 hour post mortem visit from 11:00 pm to midnight.

The following modifier may be used to identify requests for an exception to the consequences of not filing the NOE timely:

KX - Even if a hospice believes that exceptional circumstances beyond its control are the cause of its late-filed NOE, the hospice shall file the associated claim with occurrence span code 77 used to identify the non-covered, provider liable days. The hospice shall also report a KX modifier with the Q HCPCS code reported on the earliest dated level of care line on the claim. The KX modifier shall prompt the A/B MAC (HHH) to request the documentation supporting the request for an exception. Based on that documentation, the A/B MAC (HHH) shall determine if a circumstance encountered by a hospice qualifies for an exception.

If the request for an exception is approved by the A/B MAC (HHH), the A/B MAC (HHH) shall process the claim with the CWF override code and remove the submitted provider liable days, which will allow payment for the days associated with the late-filed NOE. If the A/B MAC (HHH) finds that the documentation does not support allowing an exceptional circumstance, the A/B MAC (HHH) shall process the claim as submitted. The contractor shall use the following remittance advice messages and associated codes under this policy. This CARC/RARC combination is compliant with CAQH CORE Business Scenario Three Group

Code: CO

CARC: 96

RARC: MA54

MSN: N/A

Hospices may appeal the contractor's determination that an exceptional circumstance did not apply.

Modifier GV may be used to identify attending physician services performed by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

### **Service Date**

The HIPAA standard 837 Institutional claim format requires line item dates of service for all outpatient claims. Medicare classifies hospice claims as outpatient claims (see Chapter 1, §60.4).

Service date reporting requirements will vary between continuous home care lines (revenue code 652) and other revenue code lines.

Revenue code 652 – report a separately dated line item for each day that continuous home care is provided, reporting the number of hours, or parts of hours rounded to 15minute increments, of continuous home care that was provided on that date.

Other level of care revenue codes – report a separate line for each level of care provided at each service location type, as described in the instructions for HCPCS coding reported above. Hospices report the earliest date that each level of care was provided at each service location. Attending physician services should be individually dated, reporting the date that each HCPCS code billed was delivered.

Service reporting revenue codes – report dates as described in the table above under Revenue Codes.

For service visits that begin in one calendar day and span into the next calendar day, report one visit using the date the visit ended as the service date.

### **Service Units**

The hospice enters the number of units for each type of service. Units are measured in days for revenue codes 651, 655, and 656. , Units for revenue code 652 are reported in 15-minute increments.

When days are non-covered due to not filing a timely NOE, the hospice reports two lines for the affected level of care. For example, if a billing period contains 31 days of routine home care and the first 5 days are non-covered due to not filing a timely NOE:

- The hospice reports one revenue code 0651 line containing the earliest noncovered date of service, 5 units and all non-covered charges.
- The hospice reports a second revenue code 0651 line containing the first covered date of service, 26 units and all covered charges.
- 

Report units for service reporting lines as a multiplier of the visit time defined in the HCPCS description.

When the revenue code or HCPCS code requires 15-minute increment reporting, visits of any length are to be reported, rounding the time to the nearest 15-minute increment.

*Units for summary drug charges lines may be reported using '1' to satisfy the required field or using a number of drugs provided during the billing period, at the option of the hospice.* Service unit data will not be used by Medicare for payment or data analysis.

### **Total Charges**

The hospice enters the total charge for the service described on each revenue code line. This information is being collected for purposes of research and will not affect the amount of reimbursement.

### **Non-Covered Charges**

The hospice enters a charge amount equal to the Total Charges for any revenue code line with a Service Date within a non-covered period (e.g., an occurrence span code 77 period).

### **Payer Name**



The hospice identifies the appropriate payer(s) for the claim.

### **National Provider Identifier – Billing Provider**

The hospice enters its own National Provider Identifier (NPI).

### **Principal Diagnosis Code**

The hospice enters diagnosis coding as required by ICD-9-CM / ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines.

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service. The official ICD-9-CM codes, which were updated annually through October 1, 2013, are posted at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/codes.html>

The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>.

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to five digits for ICD-9-CM and up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

The principal diagnosis listed is the diagnosis most contributory to the terminal prognosis.

### **Non-reportable Principal Diagnosis Codes to be returned to the provider for correction:**

- Hospices may not report ICD-9CM v-codes and ICD-10-CM z-codes as the principal diagnosis on hospice claims.
- Hospices may not report debility, failure to thrive, or dementia codes classified as unspecified as principal hospice diagnoses on the hospice claim.
- Hospices may not report diagnosis codes that cannot be used as the principal diagnosis according to ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines or require further compliance with various ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM coding conventions, such as those that have principal diagnosis code sequencing guidelines.

### **Other Diagnosis Codes**

The hospice enters diagnosis coding as required by ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines. *Hospices will report all diagnoses identified in the initial and comprehensive assessments on hospice claims, whether related or unrelated to the terminal prognosis of the individual.* This will also include the reporting of any mental health disorders and conditions that would affect the plan of care.

## Attending Provider Name and Identifiers

*The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.*

## Other Provider Name and Identifiers

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/*recertifying* that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. *For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.*

**NOTE:** Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/*recertifying* the terminal illness, only the attending physician *field* is required to be *populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.*

Hospices shall report the NPI of any nursing facility, hospital, or hospice inpatient facility where the patient is receiving hospice services, regardless of the level of care provided when the site of service is not the billing hospice. The billing hospice shall obtain the NPI for the facility where the patient is receiving care and report the facility's name, address and NPI on the 837 Institutional claim format in Loop 2310E- Service Facility Location. When the patient has received care in more than one facility during the billing month, the hospice shall report the NPI of the facility where the patient was last treated. Failure to report this information for claims reporting place of service HCPCS Q5003 (long term care nursing facility), Q5004 (skilled nursing facility), Q5005 (inpatient hospital), Q5007 (long term care hospital) and Q5008 (inpatient psychiatric facility) will result in the claim being returned to the provider.