

paragraph (d) of this section. (A doctor of podiatric medicine may perform only plan of treatment functions that are consistent with the functions he or she is authorized to perform under State law.)

(iv) The services were furnished while the individual was under the care of a physician who is a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatric medicine.<sup>1</sup>

(2) *Timing and signature.* The certification of need for home health services must be obtained at the time the plan of treatment is established or as soon thereafter as possible and must be signed by the physician who establishes the plan.

(b) *Recertification.* (1) *Timing and signature of recertification.* Recertification is required at least every 60 days, preferably at the time the plan is reviewed, and must be signed by the physician who reviews the plan of care. The recertification is required at least every 60 days when there is a—

(i) Beneficiary elected transfer; or

(ii) Discharge and return to the same HHA during the 60-day episode.

(2) *Content and basis of recertification.* The recertification statement must indicate the continuing need for services and estimate how much longer the services will be required. Need for occupational therapy may be the basis for continuing services that were initiated because the individual needed skilled nursing care or physical or speech therapy.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) *Limitation on the performance of certification and plan of treatment functions.* The need for home health services to be provided by an HHA may not be certified or recertified, and a plan of treatment may not be established and reviewed, by any physician who has a financial relationship, as defined in §411.351 of this chapter, with that HHA, unless the physician's relationship meets one of the exceptions in section 1877 of the Act, which sets forth general exceptions to the referral prohibi-

tion related to both ownership/investment and compensation; exceptions to the referral prohibition related to ownership or investment interests; and exceptions to the referral prohibition related to compensation arrangements.

[53 FR 6638, Mar. 2, 1988; 53 FR 12945, Apr. 20, 1988; 56 FR 8845, Mar. 1, 1991, as amended at 65 FR 41211, July 3, 2000; 66 FR 962, Jan. 4, 2001]

**§ 424.24 Requirements for medical and other health services furnished by providers under Medicare Part B.**

(a) *Exempted services.* Certification is not required for the following: (1) Hospital services and supplies incident to physicians' services furnished to outpatients. The exemption applies to drugs and biologicals that cannot be self-administered, but not to partial hospitalization services, as set forth in paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) Outpatient hospital diagnostic services, including necessary drugs and biologicals, ordinarily furnished or arranged for by a hospital for the purpose of diagnostic study.

(b) *General rule.* Medicare Part B pays for medical and other health services furnished by providers (and not exempted under paragraph (a) of this section) only if a physician certifies the content specified in paragraph (c)(1), (c)(4) or (e)(1) of this section, as appropriate.

(c) *Outpatient physical therapy and speech-language pathology services—(1) Content of certification.* (i) The individual needs, or needed, physical therapy or speech pathology services.

(ii) The services were furnished while the individual was under the care of a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant.

(iii) The services were furnished under a plan of treatment that meets the requirements of §410.61 of this chapter.

(2) *Timing.* The certification statement must be obtained at the time the plan of treatment is established, or as soon thereafter as possible.

(3) *Signature.* (i) If the plan of treatment is established by a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant, the certification must be signed by that physician or nonphysician practitioner.

<sup>1</sup>As a condition of Medicare Part A payment for home health services furnished before July 1981, the physician was also required to certify that the services were needed for a condition for which the individual had received inpatient hospital or SNF services.

(ii) If the plan of treatment is established by a physical therapist or speech-language pathologist, the certification must be signed by a physician or by a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant who has knowledge of the case.

(4) *Recertification*—(i) *Timing*. Recertification statements are required at least every 30 days and must be signed by the physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant who reviews the plan of treatment.

(ii) *Content*. The recertification statement must indicate the continuing need for physical therapy or speech-language pathology services and an estimate of how much longer the services will be needed.

(iii) *Signature*. Recertifications must be signed by the physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant who reviews the plan of treatment.

(d) [Reserved]

(e) *Partial hospitalization services: Content of certification and plan of treatment requirements*—(1) *Content of certification*.

(i) The individual would require inpatient psychiatric care if the partial hospitalization services were not provided.

(ii) The services are or were furnished while the individual was under the care of a physician.

(iii) The services were furnished under a written plan of treatment that meets the requirements of paragraph (e)(2) of this section.

(2) *Plan of treatment requirements*. (i) The plan is an individualized plan that is established and is periodically reviewed by a physician in consultation with appropriate staff participating in the program, and that sets forth—

(A) The physician's diagnosis;

(B) The type, amount, duration, and frequency of the services; and

(C) The treatment goals under the plan.

(ii) The physician determines the frequency and duration of the services taking into account accepted norms of medical practice and a reasonable expectation of improvement in the patient's condition.

(3) *Recertification requirements*.

(i) *Signature*. The physician recertification must be signed by a physician who is treating the patient and has knowledge of the patient's response to treatment.

(ii) *Timing*. The first recertification is required as of the 18th day of partial hospitalization services. Subsequent recertifications are required at intervals established by the provider, but no less frequently than every 30 days.

(iii) *Content*. The recertification must specify that the patient would otherwise require inpatient psychiatric care in the absence of continued stay in the partial hospitalization program and describe the following:

(A) The patient's response to the therapeutic interventions provided by the partial hospitalization program.

(B) The patient's psychiatric symptoms that continue to place the patient at risk of hospitalization.

(C) Treatment goals for coordination of services to facilitate discharge from the partial hospitalization program.

(f) *All other covered medical and other health services furnished by providers*—(1) *Content of certification*. The services were medically necessary.

(2) *Signature*. The certificate must be signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant who has knowledge of the case.

(3) *Timing*. The physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant may provide certification at the time the services are furnished or, if services are provided on a continuing basis, either at the beginning or at the end of a series of visits.

(4) *Recertification*. Recertification of continued need for services is not required.

[53 FR 6638, Mar. 2, 1988; 53 FR 12945, Apr. 20, 1988; 56 FR 8845, 8853, Mar. 1, 1991; 63 FR 58912, Nov. 2, 1998; 65 FR 18548, Apr. 7, 2000]

**§ 424.27 Requirements for comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF) services.**

Medicare Part B pays for CORF services only if a physician certifies, and the facility physician recertifies, the content specified in paragraphs (a) and (b)(2) of this section, as appropriate.