



COMMISSIONER
Chris Traylor

May 9, 2011

To: Medicaid Hospice Providers

Subject: Information Letter 11-54
Addition of the Physician's Narrative

The purpose of this letter is to inform all hospice providers that effective July 1, 2011, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), in accordance with Federal guidelines, will begin requiring physicians who certify Texas Medicaid hospice patients, both dual eligible and Medicaid only, as being terminally ill, to include a brief narrative of the clinical findings that support a life expectancy of six months or less. The physician narrative for Medicaid hospice patients will closely follow the guidelines provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §418.22.

The physician narrative will be an addendum to DADS Form 3074 and in addition to the brief narrative explanation of the clinical findings that support a life expectancy of six months or less it must also include:

- the physician's signature and date of signature;
- a statement directly above the physician signature attesting the physician composed the narrative based on his/her review of the patient's medical record or, if applicable, his or her examination of the patient; and
- the benefit period dates covered by the certification.

The narrative must reflect the patient's individual clinical circumstances and cannot contain check boxes or standard language used for all patients.

Hospice providers should continue to submit the Physician Certification of Terminal Illness, DADS Form 3074, electronically to the Texas Medicaid Healthcare Partnership (TMHP). However, Form 3074, along with the narrative addendum, must be faxed to DADS to the attention of: Pam Lovell, DADS Hospice Consultant at (512) 438-5135 within three business days of the submission of Form 3074 to TMHP. DADS Form 3074 instructions will be modified to include submission of the physician narrative.

Hospice services may begin on the date indicated on the Hospice Election Form 3071. If DADS determines the physician's narrative does not substantiate the need for hospice services, DADS may recoup payments made for services provided to the ineligible individual.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Pam Lovell, Hospice Program Consultant, at (512) 438-3519 or by e-mail at pam.lovell@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Carol Sloan
Section Manager
Community Services and Program Operations

CS:lr

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