

AHA Members may reproduce this sample document cooperatively developed by the New Jersey Hospital Association and the Home Care Association of New Jersey.



Date

Doctor Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code

Dear Doctor Name:

Agency Name appreciates your referrals for home health services.

We want to make you aware that Medicare has recently established a new requirement for payment of home health services. The new requirement, a Physician Face to Face Encounter, goes into effect on January 1, 2011.

Enclosed you will find a Fact Sheet and Documentation Guide for the Physician Face-to-Face Encounter. This new requirement will have to be met in order for your patients to receive home health services. Additionally the home health agency must have documented evidence that the Face to Face Encounter occurred.

If you work in collaboration with a Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, or a Physician's Assistant, the Face to Face Encounter may be carried out by that Non-Physician Practitioner who must document their findings and communicate them to you. **However, only a physician may order home health services, certify that a face-to-face encounter has occurred, and certify that other Medicare eligibility criteria are met including medical necessity and homebound status.**

We recognize that compliance with this new Medicare requirement will require additional time and resources and Agency Name is committed to working with you and your staff to make the process as streamlined as possible.

State and National Associations are continuing to advocate for changes in the process. However, at this time, our only option is to comply with the new Medicare requirement so patients can access the home health services they need.

Please contact Agency or Contact Name at Phone Number if you have any questions or need assistance in complying with this new Medicare requirement.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Contact Name