



January 2010

(800) 249-8298

Phone: 413.794.6411
Fax: 413.794.6475

50 Maple Street
PO Box 9058
Springfield, MA 01102

Refer to Home Health for:

Skilled Nursing
New Diagnoses or Existing Conditions

Post Surgical Care
Wound Care

Ostomy Care
Rehabilitation Therapies
(Physical, Occupational, Speech)

Disease Management

- Heart Failure Program with Telemonitoring
- Diabetes
- COPD

Medication Management
Tube feedings or TPN
Pain Management
Home Safety Evaluations

Or refer for specialty programs:

Palliative Care for pain and symptom management

Hospice Care for those facing end of life

We accept Medicare, Medicaid, and most major insurances.

Feedback Needed

We plan to send your office monthly bulletins on home health utilization. Will you look at them? What topics would be of use to you? Do you want off the mailing list? Email feedback to: ann.johnson@baystatehealth.org

Many Physicians Not Billing for Work They are Already Doing

Many physicians have Medicare patients with home health or hospice services. However, most physicians do not submit for the reimbursement that they are entitled to for their efforts in managing the care. At Baystate Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (BVNAH), we value the oversight provided by our referring physicians. We would like to help doctors make sure they receive maximum possible reimbursement for the valuable services they provide.

There are four ways to get paid for the work that physicians provide for BVNAH patients – Initial Certification, Recertification, Care Plan Oversight (CPO) for home health and Care Plan Oversight (CPO) for hospice. The first two ways, Initial Certification and Recertification for home health care, have very modest documentation requirements: Any time a physician signs a home health or hospice plan of care (CMS 485), the physician can bill for that service. Simply keep a copy of the signed form in the chart for proof of service.

G0180 - Initial Certification

*Average rate = \$54.28 per patient

G0179 – Recertification

*Average rate = \$41.23 per patient

The other two means for reimbursements involve Care Plan Oversight – one code is for home health patients and the other is for hospice patients. Some offices choose to forgo care plan oversight billing because of the documentation requirements. However, if you are spending more than 30 minutes of care plan coordination during a calendar month, it may be worthwhile for you to document.

G0181 - Home Health Care Plan Oversight*

*Average rate per month = \$103.85 per patient

G0182 - Hospice Care Plan Oversight*

*Average rate per month = \$106.25 per patient

* CPO covers activities such as review of charts, reports, treatment plans, lab results, and study results not otherwise compensated and physician's telephone calls with home health personnel. It does not include calls to patient or family, time spent phoning in or renewing prescriptions, preparing or submitting claims, interpreting test results at an evaluation and/or management meeting, or any services to patients in skilled nursing facilities. To avoid retraction of payment, the physician should make notes in the patient's chart about oversight related activities and the time invested. The 30 minutes need not be all at once. It can be the sum of time invested over one calendar month. For best results, bill oversight during the month following the dates of service using CMS Form 1500. The physician billing for oversight must be the same physician signing the plans of care.

Calling All Primary Care Physicians



BVNAH welcomes home health referrals directly from the offices of primary care physicians (PCPs) with or without a recent hospitalization. PCPs are in a position to help prevent unnecessary hospitalizations for their patients by making timely referrals for skilled observation, patient education, home safety, etc. In the coming months, BVNAH will do more to explain how we can help your patients. In the meantime, if you have patients who might benefit from home health care with skilled services such as education, observation & assessment, or rehabilitation, please don't hesitate to call us . . .