

# Hospice Discharge, Revocation & Transfers

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Home Health VNA  
Merrimack Valley Hospice  
HomeCare, Inc.



The Leaders in Home Health and Hospice Care

# Objectives

- ▶ The participant will be able to discuss Hospice discharges
- ▶ The participant will be able to discuss Hospice revocations
- ▶ The participant will be able to discuss Hospice transfers

# Hospice Discharge, Revocation & Transfers

- ▶ A Hospice may discharge a beneficiary in certain circumstances. The Medicare Hospice benefit is only available to beneficiaries who are terminally ill.
- ▶ A beneficiary or representative may choose to revoke the election of Hospice care at any time
- ▶ In addition, a beneficiary may transfer Hospice agencies only once in each benefit period

# Discharge from Hospice

- ▶ The election of the Hospice benefit is the beneficiary's choice rather than the Hospice's choice, and thus, the Hospice cannot revoke the beneficiary's election
- ▶ Therefore, when a Hospice agency admits a beneficiary to Hospice, it may not automatically or routinely discharge the beneficiary at its discretion, even if the care promises to be costly or inconvenient
- ▶ Hospice may bill for the day of discharge

## 418.26 (a) Reasons for discharge

- ▶ The beneficiary moves out of the Hospice's service area, goes into a non-contracted facility or transfers to another Hospice
- ▶ The Hospice determines the beneficiary meets their internal policy regarding discharge for cause – specific criteria and requires a physician's order or
- ▶ The Hospice determines the beneficiary is no longer terminally ill (live discharge) or

# 418.25 Discharge ( con't)

## ▶ Requirements

- Discharge order from Medical Director
- Consultation with attending
- Discharge planning ( including any other services required, patient/family education, etc; cannot be a lengthy timeframe)
- Discharge summary sent to attending
- File NOTR with MAC

# 418.25 Discharge ( con't)

- ▶ Live discharge –No longer terminally ill
- ▶ The patient has the right to appeal
- ▶ Must be given NONC ( Notice of Non-Coverage ) at least 48 hours before discharge

# When a patient is discharged from Hospice care, the beneficiary...

- ▶ Is no longer covered under the Medicare Hospice benefit
- ▶ Resumes Medicare coverage of the benefits waived by their Hospice Election and
- ▶ May at any time, elect to receive Hospice care if he/she is again eligible and would be admitted into the next benefit period



# Discharge Documentation

**The hospice discharge summary must include—**

- A summary of the care provided including treatments, and symptoms & pain management.
- The patient's current plan of care including medications
- The patient's latest physician orders
- Any other documentation that will assist in post-discharge continuity of care or that is requested by the attending physician or receiving facility.

# 41 8.28 Revocation of the Election

- ▶ A Hospice revocation is a beneficiary's choice to no longer receive Medicare covered Hospice benefits
- ▶ The patient may revoke at any time
- ▶ The election and revocation of the hospice benefit is the beneficiary's choice and the hospice cannot "revoke the patient"
- ▶ To revoke the election of Hospice care, the beneficiary/representative must give a signed written statement of revocation to the Hospice

# Revocation of the Election

- ▶ The statement must contain the effective date of revocation
- ▶ A verbal revocation of benefits is NOT acceptable
- ▶ The individual forfeits Hospice coverage for any remaining days in that election period
- ▶ An individual may not designate a revocation effective date earlier than the date the revocation is made

# Revocation of the Election

- ▶ The day of revocation is a billable day
- ▶ The Hospice cannot revoke the beneficiary's election, nor can the Hospice request or demand the beneficiary revoke his/her election

# Revocation of the Election

- ▶ Upon revoking the election of Medicare coverage of Hospice care for a particular election period, an individual resumes Medicare coverage of the benefits waiver when Hospice care was elected
- ▶ In cases where the individual was enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan at the time they elected Hospice, all Medicare claims will continue to be paid by the fee-for-service contractor until the first day of the month following the revocation

# Revocation of the Election

- ▶ An individual may, at any time, re-elect to receive Hospice coverage, provided that the beneficiary is otherwise entitled to Hospice care benefits
- ▶ A revocation is the beneficiary's choice rather than the Hospice's choice, and the Hospice cannot revoke the beneficiary's election

418.30

## Change of the Designated Hospice ( Transfer)

- ▶ Transfer is a “Change of the Designated Hospice”
- ▶ May occur once in a benefit period without losing any days of that benefit period
- ▶ Patient must sign a statement with the names of both hospices and the date of the transfer

# 418.30

## Change of the Designated Hospice

- ▶ The date of transfer is billable by both the discharging agency and the admitting agency

A second transfer in a benefit period requires a discharge and re-admission into the next benefit period

- ▶ If the care of a patient is transferred to another Medicare/ Medicaid-certified facility, the hospice must forward to the receiving facility/agency;
- ▶ a copy of the hospice discharge summary; and the patient's clinical record, if requested.