

5 Qualifying Criteria for Home Care for Medicare Beneficiaries

1. Homebound
2. Under the care of a physician
3. Face to face encounter
4. Receiving services under a plan of care established and periodically reviewed by a physician
5. Be in need of skilled nursing care on an intermittent basis,
PT or ST or continuing need for OT

Homebound and Qualifying Criteria

Pt is homebound if the following exists:
The individual has a condition due to an illness or injury that restricts his ability to leave their place of residence except with: the aid of supportive devices such as crutches, cane, wheelchair, and walkers OR if leaving the home is medically contraindicated.

AND

Both of these:

- ▶ The individual does not have to be bedridden to be considered confined to the home. However, the condition of the patient should be such that:
 1. **There exists a normal inability to leave the home and consequently**
 2. **Leaving the home would require a considerable and taxing effort.**
- ▶ Determining homebound is a clinical judgment and critical thinking applied to the patient's ability to leave the home setting
- ▶ Absences from the home are infrequent, of short duration, or needed to receive healthcare treatment
- ▶ Must be a considerable and taxing effort to leave the home
- ▶ Condition precludes ability to receive healthcare services outside the home

Leaving the home includes ...

- ▶ Getting washed, dressed, fed etc.
- ▶ Getting out of the home
- ▶ Completing the task of getting to the appointment
- ▶ Returning home
- ▶ Being able to function after the trip

Allowable Destinations

- ▶ Medical appointment
- ▶ Attendance at licensed or state certified or state accredited adult day centers
- ▶ For therapeutic psychosocial or medical treatment

Methadone clinic is acceptable

AA meetings are not

Non medical reasons

- ▶ Church beauticians/barber (part of well being)
- ▶ Walk around the block or a drive
- ▶ The ultimate test is the frequency and effort involved and absences “do not indicate the pt has the capacity to obtain health care outside the home rather than in the home”.