

## Guidelines for Home Care Referrals

The Medicare Home Care criteria can be confusing.

VNH can assess the patient by phone or by making a nursing visit.

### Definition of Homebound

The following examples can help determine if a patient is considered homebound

- Most post-op patients can be considered “homebound” due to driving restrictions.
- Absences are infrequent, of short duration and must contribute to the patient’s state of well-being: medical appointment, special occasion, hair appointment, church, a short walk.
- Leaving home must take a considerable and “taxing” effort, with documented use of a supportive device, i.e. walker, cane, w/c, O2.
- Patient requires assistance in order to leave the house – vision impairment, for example.
- Person has dementia and cannot be left alone for safety reasons.
- Patient has significant cardiac disease, causing fatigue.
- Patient may attend a certified, licensed or accredited day care program.
- Patient may drive, if the driving is done with “considerable and taxing effort.”
- Homecare visits may be made on the same day the patient visits the MD, provided that the homecare visit and the MD visit are for different issues. (Ex. - VNA provides visit for wound care; MD appointment is for endocrine work-up.)

### List of Visiting Nurse & Hospice Services

- Infusion therapy
- Skilled nursing and case management
- Palliative care
- Wound care
- Hospice
- Physical and Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Medical social work
- In-home anticoagulation management
- Disease management
- Telemedicine
- Personal care

### Clinical Specialties

#### For Adults and Children

- Post operative care for all types of surgery
- Rehabilitation from accident/illness
- Recovery from exacerbations of chronic diseases
- Rehab from physical impairment and adjustment to mobility changes
- Fall prevention and pre-surgical home assessments
- Medication management/education
- Patient education
- Assessment to determine need for home care services

#### Maternal and Child Health

- High risk pediatrics
- Pre-natal support for high risk mothers
- Post-partum assessment/care for mothers
- Post operative care
- Rehabilitation from accident/illness
- Oncology services

#### Long Term Care

- Case management VT Medicaid waiver patients
- Direct care/homemaking services for VT/NH waiver patients
- Collaboration with NH HCBC case managers
- Continuity of care between long term care and skilled services