

Example Documentation to Justify Home Health Services

Justifying the need for **SKILLED NURSING**:

- Cardiopulmonary Assessment and/or Care
- Neurological Assessment
- Wound Assessment and/or Care
- Administration of IV, SQ, or IM injections
- Central Line Care
- Post-op Assessment and/or Care
- Diabetic Teaching
- Monitoring of unstable Blood Sugars
- Monitoring Anticoagulant Therapy
- Medication Management
- Medication Treatment
- Teaching: Heart Failure Management
- Teaching: Diabetes Mellitus Management
- Teaching: COPD Management

Justifying the need for **PHYSICAL and/or OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**:

- Assessment of functional deficits and home safety evaluation
- Therapeutic Exercises
- Restore Joint Function and Post Joint Replacement
- Gait Training
- ADL Training

Justifying the need for **SPEECH THERAPY**:

- Therapeutic exercise to improve **Swallowing**
- Therapeutic exercise to improve **Language Function**
- Therapeutic exercise to improve **Cognitive Function**

Supporting **HOMEBOUND STATUS**:

- Requires assistive device for safe ambulation
- Requires assistance of another person for safe ambulation
- Non-ambulatory: Confined to bed or chair
- Dyspnea with minimal exertion
- Limited endurance secondary to (List diagnosis / reason)
- Cognitive impairment

A patient who meets Medicare's definition of HOMEBOUND is allowed to leave the home for medical appointments or for non-medical reasons as long as the absences are infrequent and for short periods of time.

Certification Content Clarifications

- The certifying physician's face-to-face description should be a brief narrative describing the patient's clinical condition and how the patient's condition supports homebound status and the need for skilled services.

Narrative Example - "The patient is temporarily homebound secondary to status post total knee replacement and currently walker dependent with painful ambulation. PT is needed to restore the ability to walk without support. Short-term skilled nursing is needed to monitor for signs of decomposition or adverse events from the new COPD medical regimen."