

General:

- ___ Is the encounter performed within the time frame (90 days before - 30 days after)?
- ___ Is it signed and dated prior to the submission of the claim for billing?
- ___ Does it contain the date of the encounter?
- ___ If the encounter was performed by a non-physician practitioner, does the physician's documentation in the clinical record corroborate the encounter documentation?
- ___ Does information submitted by the Home Health Agency corroborate other medical record entries and align with the time period in which services were rendered?
- ___ Is information submitted by the Home Health Agency signed by the physician?

Documentation to support the need for Home Health Services:

- ___ Does it describe the patient's condition and symptoms, not just a list of diagnoses?
- ___ Is the reason for Home Health services a: _ New problem or _ An exacerbation of a previous problem
- ___ If this post-operative patient:
How long ago was the surgery? _____
- Were there any complications? _____
- ___ If pain is a symptom Is pain a new symptom? _____
- How severe is the pain? _____
- ___ Does the patient have medical restrictions on activity? _____
- Is the need for assistive devices documented? _____

Documentation to support the need for skilled services:

- ___ Is there evidence that skilled Therapy is needed?
- Restore patient function yes no
- Design or establish a maintenance program yes no
- Perform maintenance therapy yes no
- ___ Is there evidence that skilled Physical Therapy (PT) is needed? (Note this is not an all-inclusive list.)
- ___ Assessment of functional deficits and home safety evaluation
- ___ Therapeutic Exercises
- ___ Restore joint function for post joint replacement patient
- ___ Gait Training
- ___ ADL Training
- ___ Other _____
- ___ Is there evidence that Speech Therapy is needed? (Note this is not an all-inclusive list.)
- ___ Therapeutic exercise to improve swallowing
- ___ Therapeutic exercise to improve language function _Therapeutic exercise to improve cognitive function
- ___ Is there evidence that Skilled Nursing is needed? (Note this is not an all-inclusive list.)
- ___ Teaching/training for _____
- ___ Observation & assessment for _____
- ___ Complex care plan management _____
- ___ Administration of certain medications _____
- ___ Psychiatric evaluation & therapy _____
- ___ Rehabilitation nursing/direct nursing care _____

Can these four questions be answered in the documentation?

1. What is the structural impairment?
2. What is the functional impairment?
3. What is the activity limitation?
4. How do the skills of a nurse or therapist address the specific structural/functional impairments and activity limitations cited in steps 1-3?