



COMMISSIONER  
Chris Traylor

May 9, 2011

To: Medicaid Hospice Providers

Subject: Information Letter 11-54  
Addition of the Physician's Narrative

The purpose of this letter is to inform all hospice providers that effective June 1, 2011, the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), in accordance with Federal guidelines, will begin requiring physicians who certify or recertify Texas Medicaid hospice patients, both dual eligible and Medicaid only, as being terminally ill, to include a brief narrative of the clinical findings that support a life expectancy of six months or less. The physician narrative for Medicaid hospice patients will closely follow the guidelines provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §418.22.

The physician narrative will be an addendum to the Physician Certification of Terminal Illness, DADS Form 3074. In addition to the brief narrative explanation of the clinical findings that support a life expectancy of six months or less it must also include:

- the physician's signature and date of signature;
- a statement directly above the physician signature attesting the physician composed the narrative based on his/her review of the patient's medical record or, if applicable, his or her examination of the patient; and
- the benefit period dates covered by the certification.

The narrative must reflect the patient's individual clinical circumstances and cannot contain check boxes or standard language used for all patients.

Hospice providers should continue to submit the Physician Certification of Terminal Illness, DADS Form 3074, electronically to the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) and maintain the original Physician Certification of Terminal Illness, DADS Form 3074 along with the addendum in the patient's hospice record.

Hospice services may begin on the date indicated on the Hospice Election Form 3071. If DADS determines the physician's narrative does not substantiate the need for hospice services, DADS may recoup payments made for services provided to the ineligible individual.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Pam Lovell, Hospice Program Consultant, at (512) 438-3519 or by email at [pam.lovell@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:pam.lovell@dads.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Carol Sloan  
Section Manager  
Community Services and Program Operations

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