

September 2018

Changes to the Home Health program

Summary: Effective September 1, 2018, the following requirements apply to home health services provided to Medicaid recipients enrolled in Healthy Blue:

- All home health skilled nursing and nursing aide services for Healthy Blue members require prior authorization by Healthy Blue before services can begin.
- A face-to-face visit between the patient and the physician or an allowed nonphysician provider (NPP) must occur no more than 90 days prior to admission to the home health agency. A *Face-to-Face (F2F) Encounter Form* must be submitted with the prior authorization request.
- The orders for home health services must be written by the recipient's physician.
- Recipients ages 21 and older are no longer restricted to an annual limit of 50 visits.
- Medicaid recipients do not have to be homebound in order to receive home health services, in accordance with *42 CFR 440.70(c)(1)*. Such services can be provided in a recipient's residential setting, which is defined as any noninstitutional setting in which normal life activities take place.
- Services cannot be provided in a hospital, nursing facility or intermediate care facility (ICF) for individuals with intellectual disabilities, except as allowed in *42 CFR 440.70(c)*.
- Medical supplies, equipment and appliances suitable for use in any setting in which normal life activities take place are provided in accordance with physician review and other requirements as specified in *42 CFR 440.70(b)(3)*.

The Home Health *Face-to-Face (F2F) Encounter Form* and the Healthy Blue *Universal Precertification Request Form* can be found on our provider website at <https://providers.healthybluela.com> > Provider Support > Forms > Precertification.

Why is this change necessary?

Healthy Louisiana is updating home health service requirements in accordance with federal regulations. Please refer to Louisiana Department of Health *Informational Bulletin 18-9* and CMS publications for further details.

Have questions or need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, please contact Healthy Blue Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**, the internal Provider Relations department at **1-504-836-8888** or lainterpr@healthybluela.com, or your Provider Relations representative. The local Healthy Blue Home Health department can be contacted at **1-877-440-4065, ext. 106-103-5145**.

<https://providers.healthybluela.com>

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