



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

July 18, 2013

To: Medicaid Hospice Providers

Subject: Information Letter #13-37 Addition of the Medicaid Hospice Physician Face-to-Face Assessment

The purpose of this letter is to inform all Texas Medicaid Hospice providers that effective August 1, 2013, in accordance with Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §418.22 Certification of terminal illness, all Medicaid Hospice physicians must perform a face-to-face assessment for each individual enrolled in the Texas Medicaid Hospice program to determine continued eligibility for Hospice care. The face-to-face assessment must be completed for each six month certification period, beginning with the second six month certification period, and must not be performed earlier than 30 days before the end of the six month certification period. If the individual is eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and the certification periods for Medicare and Medicaid are no more than 30 days apart, the Medicare face-to-face encounter will suffice for the Medicaid face-to-face assessment. Medicaid Hospice providers must maintain the original Physician Certification of Terminal Illness, in the individual's Hospice record.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sara Goodman, Hospice Program Consultant, at (512) 438-5837 or by email at sara.goodman@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Carol Sloan
Section Manager
Community Services and Program Operations

CS:lr