

Hospice Face-to-Face Encounter Final Rule Published

Summary at a Glance:

Late Tuesday afternoon, November 2nd, the Federal Register posted the final rule for the Hospice Face-to-Face Encounter as part of the Final Rule entitled: Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rule Update for Calendar Year 2011; Changes in Certification Requirements for Home Health Agencies and Hospices. Highlights in the final rule are as follows:

- A hospice physician, hospice Nurse Practitioner, or incident/fellow physician rotating through the hospice may perform the face-to-face encounter.
- CMS clarified that the face-to-face encounter is based on benefit periods and not on actual days of care.
- Visit Timeliness is now 30 days. CMS has expanded the time frame for face-to-face encounters to 30 days prior to the start of the 180-day recertification, and each subsequent recertification.
- CMS has changed the language to 418.22 (CJ4) from "must visit" to "have a face-to-face encounter" in order to make clear that the hospice has flexibility for the practitioner to see the patient – either at the patient's home or by the patient coming to see the physician or NP.

Clarification that the face-to-face encounter is NOT billable. The billing regulations for hospices do not allow for physician reimbursement for administrative activities of physicians.

The Requirement:

The Affordable Care Act amends section 1814(a)(17) of the Social Security Act to require that on and after January 1, 2011, a hospice physician or nurse practitioner (NP) must have a face-to-face encounter with every hospice patient to determine the continued eligibility of that patient prior to the 180-day recertification, and prior to each subsequent recertification. Furthermore, the Affordable Care Act requires that the hospice physician or NP attest that such a visit took place, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary of the HHS.

Specific provisions in the final rule:

1. Who Can Perform the Encounter?

Physicians:

- **Certifying terminal illness:** By statute, only a physician (not a NP) may certify a patient's terminal illness.
- **Definition of hospice physician:** A "hospice physician" is a physician either employed by or working under arrangements with a hospice (i.e., contractors).
- **Increased accountability:** By limiting "hospice physician" to those physicians who are employed by or working under contract with a hospice, CMS also increases accountability, as the hospice is in control of its employees and contracted physicians.

Face To Face Encounter Sample

Rosina Ehmann



Face To Face Encounter Sample:

Face To Face Encounter Sample: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous captivating novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of top-selling books, exploring the fascinating narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoovers "It Ends with Us" This poignant tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Face To Face Encounter Sample : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This captivating historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Discover the Magic : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, captivating readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These popular novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a brilliant and suspenseful novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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