If a patient has been certified as eligible for Medicare home health services, a Face-to-Face Encounter Form must be filled out. The form documents that a physician or NP saw the patient and notes the patient's clinical conditions that support a homebound status and need for skilled services.

Below is a reference guide to help you

**PATIENT MUST BE HOMEBOUND**

1. A normal inability to leave the home; leaving the home requires considerable and taxing effort
2. The patient needs intermittent skilled nursing and/or therapy

**Considerable taxing effort may include:**
- Needs help of another person
- Needs assistive devices
- Needs special transport
- Shows symptoms such as shortness of breath, pain, anxiety, confusion or fatigue

**This may include patients who attend:**
- Adult day programs
- Outpatient medical care (i.e., chemotherapy)
- Religious services
- Dialysis
- Hair appointments

**NOTE:** Patients who leave the home infrequently for short durations may still be considered homebound.

**INTERMITTENT SKILLED NURSING**

**Examples of skilled needs include:**
- Teaching and training
- Observation and assessment
- Disease management and education
- Administration of certain medications
- Tube Feeding education
- Wound, catheter and ostomy care
- Nasopharyngeal and tracheostomy aspiration care
- Medication education

**PHYSICAL OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND SPEECH–LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

**Examples of skilled needs include:**
- Teaching and training
- Observation and assessment
- Restoration of function due to illness or injury
- Gait training
- Safety assessment
- Home exercise program
- Swallowing and speech evaluation
- Fine motor skills assessment and treatment
- Falls prevention teaching