

COVID 19 CMS Updated Guidance for Home Health Policies

With Kettering Home Care navigating the ever-changing landscape of the COVID -19 world, let it be known that we are equipped to care for your confirmed COVID 19 patients and suspected COVID 19 patients. We can provide both monitoring and skilled care to those who no longer require in-patient care or those that are symptomatic that we want to prevent occupation of a hospital bed. We continue to care for our typical homebound patients, but now have the potential to care for those patients whose homebound status is due to “stay at home”, “shelter in place”, and/or physician recommendations to prevent the patient from contracting COVID 19.

CMS has Approved two policy updates regarding home healthcare effective 3.31.2020

- **Homebound Definition Update**

- *A Patient is now considered homebound when their physician advises them of the following:*
 - Caring for patients with chronic illnesses or post-acute challenges, who are well enough to be discharged from inpatient care but still require close monitoring and ongoing care will be considered homebound because going out to an outpatient cardiac or pulmonary rehab, physical therapy clinic, etc. would be placing a patient at risk for transmission—this is critical to help avoid rehospitalizations, which will only exacerbate the pressure on the system.
 - Treating confirmed COVID-19 patients who no longer require inpatient care, and those whose symptoms are manageable at home with close monitoring and care delivered by a skilled clinician.
 - Addressing the healthcare needs of patients under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 Plans of Care and Certifying/ Recertifying Patient Eligibility for Home Healthcare Update.

- **Plans of Care and Certifying/ Recertifying Patient Eligibility for Home Healthcare Update**

- *Non-physician practitioners (NP, PA, CNS) are now allowed to:*
 - Order home health services
 - Establish and periodically review a plan of care for home health services (i.e. sign the plan of care)
 - Certify and Re-Certify that the patient is eligible for Medicare home health services reducing physician burden.

To help diminish exposure we have implemented protocols for telephonic and telemonitoring your chronic high-risk patient base. In addition, PPE protocols utilized with 100% availability for patient and clinical safety.

Please contact **Kettering Home Care Office**

at

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Or contact your local Community Educator / Community Care Coordinator