**ASK ALECC FAQ Newsletter - August**

 Thursday, August 17, 2023

ADR’s and Hospice Oversight

As I write this newsletter, I think of all the Hospices who are working their hearts out right now at this moment delivering quality care. However, there is also a part of me that knows many of you will face the medical review audit and have Medicare monies recouped due to poor documentation of Medicare Hospice Eligibility and Terminality.

What can we do to fix this dilemma? It is not all that difficult, and I am going to give you a few direct pointers that your agencies should be doing right now.

Eligibility starts with admission, plain and simple. Pull out your LCDs and begin going down the criteria to determine eligibility. And if the potential admission does not meet a guideline, will the certifying Physician provide a certification and narrative with evidence that supports terminality? And if not, don’t admit.

Next, have all admitting technical requirements and documents signed completely and correctly. Check every box, put in every date, and make sure your forms are current and reflect all required Medicare language. As I tell my clients, this is no time for creative writing when it comes to consents. The Patient Addendum is a necessary piece to your NOE. If you have not implemented it, what are you waiting for? Go back and check your charts also with your current patients, now is a good time to do an audit.

Levels of care other than routine must be documented well. GIP is about an unmet need, uncontrolled symptom and what intervention did you do that was not done in the home and you must have evidence of frequent assessments. And you must show coordinated documentation with the facility. As a reminder, actively dying is not a GIP acceptable diagnosis.

Start auditing your charts, especially the technical requirements. Do your assessments support terminality? Assess, document, sign and follow guidelines. And when patients are no longer eligible, live discharge.

ALECC wishes your organization much success!

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*If you would like to submit a question for consideration to be featured in an ASK ALECC newsletter, please click on the link below to submit a question.*

[*ASK ALECC Question Form*](https://www.alecc.com/ask-alecc)