AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

(a) *Standard: Multiple locations.* Every hospice must comply with the requirements of § 420.206 of this chapter regarding disclosure of ownership and control information. All hospice multiple locations must be approved by Medicare and licensed in accordance with State licensure laws, if applicable, before providing Medicare reimbursed services.

(b) *Standard: Laboratory services.* (1) If the hospice engages in laboratory testing other than assisting a patient in self-administering a test with an appliance that has been approved for that purpose by the FDA, the hospice must be in compliance with all applicable requirements of part 493 of this chapter.

(2) If the hospice chooses to refer specimens for laboratory testing to a reference laboratory, the reference laboratory must be certified in the appropriate specialties and subspecialties of services in accordance with the applicable requirements of part 493 of this chapter.

Subpart E [Reserved]

Subpart F—Covered Services

§ 418.200 Requirements for coverage.

To be covered, hospice services must meet the following requirements. They must be reasonable and necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness as well as related conditions. The individual must elect hospice care in accordance with § 418.24. A plan of care must be established and periodically reviewed by the attending physician, the medical director, and the interdisciplinary group of the hospice program as set forth in § 418.56. That plan of care must be established before hospice care is provided. The services provided must be consistent with the plan of care. A certification that the individual is terminally ill must be completed as set forth in section § 418.22.

[74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009]

§ 418.202 Covered services.

All services must be performed by appropriately qualified personnel, but it is the nature of the service, rather than the qualification of the person who provides it, that determines the coverage category of the service. The following services are covered hospice services:

(a) Nursing care provided by or under the supervision of a registered nurse.

(b) Medical social services provided by a social worker under the direction of a physician.

(c) Physicians' services performed by a physician as defined in § 410.20 of this chapter except that the services of the hospice medical director or the physician member of the interdisciplinary group must be performed by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

(d) Counseling services provided to the terminally ill individual and the family members or other persons caring for the individual at home. Counseling, including dietary counseling, may be provided both for the purpose of training the individual's family or other caregiver to provide care, and for the purpose of helping the individual and those caring for him or her to adjust to the individual's approaching death.

(e) Short-term inpatient care provided in a participating hospice inpatient unit, or a participating hospital or SNF, that additionally meets the standards in § 418.202 (a) and (e) regarding staffing and patient areas. Services provided in an inpatient setting must conform to the written plan of care. Inpatient care may be required for procedures necessary for pain control or acute or chronic symptom management.

Inpatient care may also be furnished as a means of providing respite for the individual's family or other persons caring for the individual at home. Respite care must be furnished as specified in § 418.108(b). Payment for inpatient care will be made at the rate appropriate to the level of care as specified in § 418.302.

(f) *Medical appliances and supplies, including drugs and biologicals.* Only drugs as defined in section 1861(t) of the Act and which are used primarily for the relief of pain and symptom control related to the individual's terminal illness are covered. Appliances may include covered durable medical equipment as described in § 410.38 of this chapter as well as other self-help and personal comfort items related to the

palliation or management of the patient's terminal illness. Equipment is provided by the hospice for use in the patient's home while he or she is under hospice care. Medical supplies include those that are part of the written plan of care and that are for palliation and management of the terminal or related conditions.

(g) *Home health or hospice aide services furnished by qualified aides as designated in § 418.76 and homemaker services.* Home health aides (also known as hospice aides) may provide personal care services as defined in § 409.45(b) of this chapter. Aides may perform household services to maintain a safe and sanitary environment in areas of the home used by the patient, such as changing bed linens or light cleaning and laundering essential to the comfort and cleanliness of the patient. Aide services must be provided under the general supervision of a registered nurse. Homemaker services may include assistance in maintenance of a safe and healthy environment and services to enable the individual to carry out the treatment plan.

(h) Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services in addition to the services described in § 409.33 (b) and (c) of this chapter provided for purposes of symptom control or to enable the patient to maintain activities of daily living and basic functional skills.

(i) Effective April 1, 1998, any other service that is specified in the patient's plan of care as reasonable and necessary for the palliation and management of the patient's terminal illness and related conditions and for which payment may otherwise be made under Medicare.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 51 FR 41351, Nov. 14, 1986; 55 FR 50835, Dec. 11, 1990; 59 FR 65498, Dec. 20, 1994; 70 FR 70547, Nov. 22, 2005; 73 FR 32220, June 5, 2008; 74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009; 76 FR 47331, Aug. 4, 2011]

§ 418.204 Special coverage requirements.

(a) *Periods of crisis.* Nursing care may be covered on a continuous basis for as much as 24 hours a day during periods of crisis as necessary to maintain an individual at home. Either homemaker or home health aide (also known as hospice aide) services or both may be covered on a 24-hour continuous basis during periods of crisis but care during these periods must be predominantly nursing care. A period of crisis is a period in which the individual requires continuous care to achieve palliation and management of acute medical symptoms.

(b) *Respite care.* (1) Respite care is short-term inpatient care provided to the individual only when necessary to relieve the family members or other persons caring for the individual.

(2) Respite care may be provided only on an occasional basis and may not be reimbursed for more than five consecutive days at a time.

(c) *Bereavement counseling.* Bereavement counseling is a required hospice service but it is not reimbursable.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 50835, Dec. 11, 1990; 74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009]

§ 418.205 Special requirements for hospice pre-election evaluation and counseling services.

(a) *Definition.* As used in this section the following definition applies.

Terminal illness has the same meaning as defined in § 418.3.

(b) *General.* Effective January 1, 2005, payment for hospice pre-election evaluation and counseling services as specified in § 418.304(d) may be made to a hospice on behalf of a Medicare beneficiary if the requirements of this section are met.

(1) *The beneficiary.* The beneficiary:

(i) Has been diagnosed as having a terminal illness as defined in § 418.3.

(ii) Has not made a hospice election.

(iii) Has not previously received hospice pre-election evaluation and consultation services specified under this section.

(2) *Services provided.* The hospice pre-election services include an evaluation of an individual's need for pain and symptom management and counseling regarding hospice and other care options. In addition, the services may include advising the individual regarding advanced care planning.

(3) *Provision of pre-election hospice services.* (i) The services must be furnished by a physician.