



# How should physicians sign home care plan of care recertifications?

## THE MYTH

*Physicians are required to sign every single page of home health agency plan of care (POC) certifications and recertifications.*

## DEBUNKING THE MYTH

There is no CMS requirement specifying that physicians or allowed non-physician practitioners must sign every single page of home health POC certifications or recertifications. The format of the document and the way in which timely certification or recertification is obtained is left to the determination of the individual home health agency.<sup>1,2</sup>

## BACKGROUND

When certifying and recertifying home health POCs, physicians and allowed non-physician practitioners (nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and physician assistants) are often met with conflicting instructions regarding how they should sign the document. Signing and dating every page of a home health certification or recertification can unnecessarily add administrative work and consume time.

## RESOURCES

- [Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement: Physician Certification and Recertification of Services.](#) Accessed July 2022.
- [Complying with Medicare Signature Requirements MLN Fact Sheet.](#) Accessed July 2022.

## References

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Physician Certification and Recertification of Services. In: *Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement*; 2021. Accessed August 31, 2022. <https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/manuals/downloads/ge101c04.pdf>
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Chapter 7: Home Health Services. In: *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual*; 2022. Accessed August 31, 2022. <https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/manuals/downloads/bp102c07.pdf>