

30.1.1 - Patient Confined to the Home

(Rev. 10438, Issued: 11-06-20, Effective: 03-01-20, Implementation: 01- 11-21)

For a patient to be eligible to receive covered home health services under both Part A and Part B, the law requires that a physician or allowed practitioner certify in all cases that the patient is confined to his/her home. For purposes of the statute, an individual shall be considered “confined to the home” (homebound) if the following two criteria are met:

1. Criterion One:

The patient must either:

- Because of illness or injury, need the aid of supportive devices such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers; the use of special transportation; or the assistance of another person in order to leave their place of residence

OR

- Have a condition such that leaving his or her home is medically contraindicated.

If the patient meets one of the criterion one conditions, then the patient must ALSO meet two additional requirements defined in criterion two below.

2. Criterion Two:

- There must exist a normal inability to leave home;

AND

- Leaving home must require a considerable and taxing effort.

To clarify, in determining whether the patient meets criterion two of the homebound definition, the clinician needs to take into account the illness or injury for which the patient met criterion one and consider the illness or injury in the context of the patient’s overall condition. The clinician is not required to include standardized phrases reflecting the patient’s condition (e.g., repeating the words “taxing effort to leave the home”) in the patient’s chart, nor are such phrases sufficient, by themselves, to demonstrate that criterion two has been met. For example, longitudinal clinical information about the patient’s health status is typically needed to sufficiently demonstrate a normal inability to leave the home and that leaving home requires a considerable and taxing effort. Such clinical information about the patient’s overall health status may include, but is not limited to, such factors as the patient’s diagnosis, duration of the patient’s condition, clinical course (worsening or improvement), prognosis, nature and extent of functional limitations, other therapeutic interventions and results, etc.