



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

September 30, 2014

To: Medicaid Hospice Providers

Subject: Information Letter #14-51
Use of nonspecific International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes for “debility” and “adult failure to thrive” as principal diagnoses for Medicaid Hospice certification.

The purpose of this letter is to inform Medicaid Hospice providers, effective October 1, 2014, the use of nonspecific diagnosis ICD codes for “debility” and “adult failure to thrive” will no longer be acceptable as the principal diagnosis on Form 3071, Individual Election/Cancellation/Update, for Medicaid hospice certification.

In the August 7, 2013 publication of the Federal Register, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule: Medicare Program; FY2014 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update; Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements; and Updates on Payment Reform. In this final rule, CMS announced that effective October 1, 2014 all Medicare claims for hospice services with the ICD codes for “debility” and “adult failure to thrive” will not be accepted for payment. Therefore, effective October 1, 2014, the Department of Aging and Disability Services will no longer accept ICD codes for “debility” or “adult failure to thrive” as the principal diagnosis on Form 3071, Individual Election/Cancellation/Update. However, these ICD codes may be used as secondary diagnoses codes.

Please address questions and requests for additional information to hospice@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Lisa Akers-Owen
Director
Community Services and Program Operations

LAO:slr