L594
(Rev. 210; Issued:02-03-23; Effective:02-03-23; Implementation:02-03-23)

§418.64(c) Standard: Medical social services

Medical social services must be provided by a qualified social worker, under the direction of a physician. Social work services must be based on the patient's psychosocial assessment and the patient's and family's needs and acceptance of these services.

Interpretive Guidelines §418.64(c)

The social worker's services are provided in accordance with the plan of care. Because social work services must be provided under the direction of a physician, physician approval of the plan of care will satisfy the intent of this requirement.

The psychosocial assessment is an evolving document that is revised as new information is acquired and as progress toward goals is made. The psychosocial assessment may also include the bereavement risk assessment. The purpose of the psychosocial assessment is to help the IDG identify issues that either impede or facilitate the patient's treatment and to assist the patient/family in reaching the maximum benefit from hospice care and services. The assessment should include a wide variety of factors, including but not limited to, the patient and family's adjustment to the terminal illness, the social and emotional factors related to the terminal illness, the presence or absence of adequate coping mechanisms, the family dynamics and communication patterns, financial resources or constraints, the caregiver's ability to function effectively, identifying obstacles and risk factors which may effect compliance with the plan of care, and identifying family support systems to help facilitate coping with end of life issues.