

§418.102(b) Standard: Initial certification of terminal illness.

The medical director or physician designee reviews the clinical information for each hospice patient and provides written certification that it is anticipated that the patient's life expectancy is 6 months or less if the illness runs its normal course. The physician must consider the following when making this determination:

- (1) The primary terminal condition;**
- (2) Related diagnosis(es), if any;**
- (3) Current subjective and objective medical findings;**
- (4) Current medication and treatment orders; and**
- (5) Information about the medical management of any of the patient's conditions unrelated to the terminal illness.**

Interpretive Guidelines §418.102(b)

- The medical director or physician designee (who is a hospice employee or under contract with the hospice) has the responsibility for the medical component of the hospice's patient care program, including initial certifications and recertification of terminal illness.**
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