

WAC 182-551-2040 Face-to-face encounter requirements. (1) The face-to-face encounter requirements of this section may be met using telemedicine or telehealth services. See WAC 182-551-2125.

(2) The medicaid agency pays for home health services provided under this chapter only when the face-to-face encounter requirements in this section are met.

(3) For initiation of home health services, with the exception of medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the client requires home health services and must occur within ninety days before or within the thirty days after the start of the services.

(4) For the initiation of medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the client requires medical equipment and must occur no more than six months before the start of services.

(5) The face-to-face encounter may be conducted by:

- (a) A physician;
- (b) A nurse practitioner;
- (c) A clinical nurse specialist;

(d) A certified nurse midwife under 42 C.F.R. 440.70 when furnished by a home health agency that meets the conditions of participation for medicare;

(e) A physician assistant; or

(f) The attending acute, or post-acute physician, for beneficiaries admitted to home health immediately after an acute or post-acute stay.

(6) Services may be ordered by:

- (a) Physicians;
- (b) Nurse practitioners;
- (c) Clinical nurse specialists; or
- (d) Physician assistants.

(7) For all home health services except medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, the physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or physician assistant responsible for ordering the services must:

(a) Document that the face-to-face encounter, which is related to the primary reason the client requires home health services, occurred within the required time frames described in subsection (3) of this section prior to the start of home health services; and

(b) Indicate the practitioner who conducted the encounter, and the date of the encounter.

(8) For medical equipment under WAC 182-551-2122, except as provided in (b) of this subsection, an ordering physician, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, physician assistant, or the attending physician when a client is discharged from an acute hospital stay, must:

(a) Document that the face-to-face encounter, which is related to the primary reason the client requires home health services, occurred within the required time frames described in subsection (4) of this section prior to the start of home health services; and

(b) Indicate the practitioner who conducted the encounter, and the date of the encounter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160 and 42 C.F.R. § 440.70. WSR 21-12-051, § 182-551-2040, filed 5/26/21, effective 6/26/21; WSR 18-24-023, § 182-551-2040, filed 11/27/18, effective 1/1/19.]