

Homebound Requirement



How Medicare defines "Homebound"

"The condition of patients who are considered Homebound should be such that there exists a normal inability to leave home and, consequently, leaving home would require a considerable and taxing effort"¹.

Examples of why a patient may be considered Homebound

Generally speaking, a patient will be considered to be Homebound if they have a condition due to an illness or injury that restricts their ability to leave their place of residence such as:

- ✓ Leaving home is medically contraindicated
- ✓ The patient needs the aid of supportive devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, or walkers.
- ✓ The patient needs to use special transportation
- ✓ The patient needs the assistance of another person

Examples of acceptable activities that do not preclude Homebound status

These activities would not preclude a patient from being considered Homebound if the absences are undertaken on an infrequent basis or are of relatively short duration and do not indicate that the patient has the capacity to obtain the health care provided outside rather than in the home.

- ✓ An occasional trip to the barber / hair stylist
- ✓ A walk around the block or a drive
- ✓ Attendance at a family reunion, funeral, graduation, or other infrequent or unique events

¹ Medicare Benefit Policy Manual
Chapter 7 - Home Health Services 30.1.1 - Patient Confined to the Home
(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)
A3-3117.1.A, HHA-204.1.A, A-01-21