

# **Local Coverage Article: Hospice: Documenting Weight Loss for Beneficiaries with Non- Neoplastic Conditions (A53056)**

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## **Contractor Information**

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
Palmetto GBA	A and B and HHH MAC	11004 - HHH MAC	J - M	Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia Illinois Indiana Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina New Mexico Ohio Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee Texas

## **Article Information**

### **General Information**

**Article ID**

A53056

**Original Effective Date**

10/01/2015

**Original ICD-9 Article ID**

[A50424](#)

**Revision Effective Date**

10/22/2015

**Article Title**

Hospice: Documenting Weight Loss for Beneficiaries with Non-Neoplastic Conditions

**Revision Ending Date**

N/A

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**Retirement Date**

N/A

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## Article Guidance

### Article Text:

Weight has long been used as a measure of nutritional status. Both absolute body weight and changes in body weight have prognostic significance. The documentation of absolute body weight provides information at a specified point in time, while changes in body weight allow clinicians to gauge a given patient's response to treatment over time.

If hospice organizations record "percent weight loss" as an indicator of nutritional status, Palmetto GBA expects to see supporting documentation of the absolute weights used to calculate the percent decrease. The reporting of absolute weights strengthens documentation of percent change in weight over time (e.g., > 10% weight loss over the last six months with weight decreasing from 110 pounds to 95 pounds). Palmetto GBA encourages hospice providers to include absolute weights in their responses to Additional Documentation Requests (ADRs).

Unsupported percent weight loss in the medical record may result in a denial if other documentation does not lend support to impaired nutritional status.

# Coding Information

## Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

CODE	DESCRIPTION
081x	Hospice (non-Hospital based)
082x	Hospice (hospital based)

## Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

## CPT/HCPCS Codes

N/A

## ICD-10 Codes that are Covered

N/A

## ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered

N/A

# Revision History Information

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
10/22/2015	R3	Annual Validation
10/01/2015	R2	Under Bill Type Codes added 81X and 82X for Hospice. Annual validation.

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
10/01/2015	R1	Article validation

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## Associated Documents

### Related Local Coverage Document(s)

LCD(s)  
L34566 - Hospice - HIV Disease  
L34544 - Hospice - Liver Disease  
L34547 - Hospice - Neurological Conditions  
L34559 - Hospice - Renal Care  
L34567 - Hospice Alzheimer's Disease & Related Disorders  
L34548 - Hospice Cardiopulmonary Conditions  
L34558 - Hospice The Adult Failure To Thrive Syndrome

### Related National Coverage Document(s)

N/A

### Statutory Requirements URL(s)

N/A

### Rules and Regulations URL(s)

N/A

### CMS Manual Explanations URL(s)

N/A

### Other URL(s)

N/A

### Public Version(s)

Updated on 10/16/2015 with effective dates 10/22/2015 - N/A

Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the MCD Archive Site to retrieve them.

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## Keywords

- Weight Loss
- Absolute Weight