

Instructions - Physician's Certification Statement (PCS)

When is the PCS required?

The PCS is required for all non-emergency transfers. Its purpose is to certify the medical necessity of non-emergency ambulance transportation. The presence of the signed physician certification statement does not, by itself, demonstrate that the transport was medically necessary and does not absolve the ambulance provider from meeting all other coverage documentation criteria. Ambulance company employees are not allowed to fill out this form. **PCS must be completed before transport can be provided.**

Check boxes are provided for documenting the need for ambulance transportation.

The Check boxes are provided to assist the physician or authorizing party in describing the medical situation requiring the use of an ambulance. Check all that apply. Additional explanation in narrative form is desirable to properly describe the medical condition that requires ambulance transport.

Please read carefully the certification statement above the area for the physician's signature. In addition to certifying that the physician completing and signing the PCS has firsthand knowledge of the patient's medical condition and need for an ambulance, the physician acknowledges that the information on the PCS will be used by CMS to determine medical necessity for an ambulance transport.

Authorized Signature Required

All PCS forms for all patients require a physician's signature. The only acceptable alternatives to a physician's signature are signatures of a Physician's Assistant, Registered Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse, and Certified Nursing Specialist, a Discharge Planner or a resident at a teaching hospital.

Definitions:

- **Medical Necessity:** Medicare covers ambulance services if they are furnished to a beneficiary, whose medical conditions such that other means of transportation would be contraindicated, Lack of alternate transportation does not create a medical necessity for ambulance services. In addition, for non-emergency ambulance transportation, the definition of bed confined (see below) must be met to ensure that ambulance transportation is medically necessary.
- **Bed Confined:** All three must be met before a patient is bed confined, however bed confinement is not the sole determinate of medical necessity.
 - The beneficiary is unable to get up from bed without assistance; and
 - The beneficiary is unable to ambulate; and
 - The beneficiary is unable to sit in a chair, or a wheelchair

CMS recognizes that it is standard and accepted medical practice in both hospitals and nursing homes to take steps to ensure that beneficiaries are up and out of bed as often as their condition permits. Such beneficiaries are not bed-confined. It is incumbent upon health care professionals responsible for the care of individual beneficiaries to determine what is safe for those beneficiaries. If it is determined that it is unsafe for a particular beneficiary to be unmonitored during transport, then the documentation submitted for that particular transport should support the need for ambulance transportation. The carrier in processing the claim will consider that documentation.

