

Supporting Statement Part A
Medicaid Program Face-to-Face Requirements for Home Health Services
and Supporting Regulations under 42 CFR 440.70(f) and (g)
CMS-10609, OMB 0938-1319

The contents of this Supporting Statement and the associated attachments have been reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the Trump administration's policies, goals, and objectives. This includes compliance with Executive Order 14168 and OMB's SPD 15 standards.

Background

Section 6407(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (the ACA) (Pub. L. 111-148), (as amended by section 10605 of the ACA) added new requirements to section 1814(a)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (the Act) under Part A of the Medicare program, and section 1835(a)(2)(A) of the Act, under Part B of the Medicare program, that the physician, or certain allowed non-physician practitioners (NPPs), document a face-to-face encounter with the beneficiary (including through the use of telehealth, subject to the requirements in section 1834(m) of the Act), before making a certification that home health services are required under the Medicare home health benefit.

Section 504 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA) (Pub. L. 114-10) amended the underlying Medicare requirements at section 1834(a)(11)(B)(ii) of the Act to allow certain authorized NPPs to document the face-to-face encounter.

Section 3708 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act expanded 42 CFR part 409, § 424.22, § 424.507(b), § 440.70, and part 484 to permit nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and physician assistants (PAs) to certify the need for home health services and to order services in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. As such, under CMS-5531-IFC¹, CMS amended § 440.70 to remove the requirement that the NPPs have to communicate the clinical finding of the face-to-face encounter to the ordering physician. With expanding authority to order home health services, the CARES Act also provided that such practitioners are now capable of independently performing the face-to-face encounter for the patient for whom they are the ordering practitioner, in accordance with state law.

This 2026 information collection request is an Extension that adjusts our active cost estimates based on current wage data. See section 15 of this Supporting Statement for details. Overall, our cost estimate has increased by \$6,959,290.

This collection of information request does not include any reporting instruments. Instructions are set out within the CFR.

A. Justification

1. Need and Legal Basis

¹May 8, 2020 (85 FR 27550) interim final rule with comment period (RIN 0938-AU32).

Section 6407 of the ACA and section 504 of MACRA set forth the requirement that the physician, or certain allowed NPPs, document a face-to-face encounter with the individual, prior to the physician making a certification that home health services are required.

CMS codified these statutory requirements into a federal regulation at § 440.70(f) and (g). These requirements are necessary to increase program integrity and to ensure that statutory requirements are being met.

Subsequent to the above-mentioned legislation and regulation, section 3708 of the CARES Act expanded the practitioners authorized to order home health services to include various NPPs and removed the requirement that these NPPs communicate the face-to-face findings with an ordering physician.

2. Information Users

Documentation of the face-to-face encounter will be used by the physicians as part of the individual's medical record as well as the home health agencies and medical equipment providers furnishing services.

3. Use of Information Technology

We have not provided any voluntary or mandatory forms of documentation. From the federal perspective, our goal is to ensure that required documentation by the practitioner is sufficient to make the linkage between the individual's health conditions, the services ordered, an appropriate face-to-face encounter, and actual service provision. We encourage documentation requirements established by states to meet this goal, while not imposing additional actual or perceived administrative burden. Electronic Health Records may be of use to support the operational requirements. An electronic signature of the practitioner who completed the documentation is acceptable.

4. Duplication of Efforts

We have aligned our documentation requirements, to the greatest extent possible, with Medicare documentation requirements. Additionally, the Medicare face-to-face encounter documentation will meet the Medicaid face-to-face requirement.

5. Small Businesses

The documentation provision will not have a significant economic impact on small entities. Entities affected by the face-to-face documentation requirements should already be administering these changes for Medicare purposes as the statutory change was effective in 2010. Entities should already have systems in place to accommodate this change for the Medicaid population.

6. Less Frequent Collection

This collection is a statutory requirement. If the collection is not conducted as required by

statute, there is a risk of increased fraud, waste and abuse.

7. Special Circumstances

Outside of the need for the physician and certain NPPs to document a face-to-face encounter with the individual, there are no other special circumstances that would require an information collection to be conducted in a manner that requires respondents to:

- Report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- Prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- Submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- Retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- Collect data in connection with a statistical survey that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study,
- Use a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- Include a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or
- Submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

8. Federal Register/Outside Consultation

Our 60-day notice published in the Federal Register on December 8, 2025 (90 FR 56764). One comment was received but is out of scope.

Our 30-day notice published in the Federal Register on March 17, 2026 (91 FR 12810).

9. Payments/Gifts to Respondents

N/A

10. Confidentiality

This applies to the extent that HIPAA requires confidentiality of medical records.

11. Sensitive Questions

There are no sensitive questions associated with this collection. Specifically, the collection does not solicit questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

12. Collection of Information Requirements and Burden Estimates

Wage Estimates

To derive average costs, we used data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' May 2024 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates for all salary estimates (www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm). In this regard, the following table presents BLS' mean hourly wage, our estimated cost of fringe benefits and other indirect costs (calculated at 100 percent), and our adjusted hourly wage.

Occupation Title	Occupation Code	Mean Hourly Wage (\$/hr)	Fringe Benefits and Other Indirect Costs (\$/hr)	Adjusted Hourly Wage (\$/hr)
<i>Family Medicine Physicians</i>	29-1215	123.47	123.47	246.94
<i>General Internal Medicine Physicians</i>	29-1216	126.31	126.31	252.62
Average Family and General Physicians (249.78 = [(246.94 + 252.62)/2])				249.78
Nurse Practitioners	29-1171	63.46	63.46	126.92
Physician Assistants	29-1071	65.82	65.82	131.64

As indicated, we are adjusting our employee hourly wage estimates by a factor of 100 percent. This is necessarily a rough adjustment, both because fringe benefits and other indirect costs vary significantly from employer to employer, and because methods of estimating these costs vary widely from study to study. Nonetheless, we believe that doubling the hourly wage to estimate total cost is a reasonably accurate estimation method.

Collection of Information Requirements and Associated Burden Estimates

Section 440.70(f) and (g) requires that physicians and authorized NPPs including nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and physician assistants document that there was a face-to-face encounter with the Medicaid beneficiary. The burden associated with this requirement is the time and effort to complete this documentation. The burden also includes writing, typing, or dictating the face-to-face documentation and signing/dating the documentation. In this regard, we estimate that it will take 10 minutes (0.167 hr) for each encounter. We also estimate that there are approximately 2,495,355 initial home health episodes in a given year (this estimate is based on our 2019 claims data which is also our most recent data). Due to the lack of data for each provider type, we are dividing our 2,495,355 episode estimate into 3 equal parts of 831,785 for each of the three respondent types (family and general practitioners, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants).

For documenting, signing, and dating the beneficiary's face-to-face encounter, we estimate an annual burden of 416,724 hours (2,495,355 episodes x 0.167 hr/episode) at a cost of \$70,612,492 [(831,785 x 0.167 hr x \$249.78/hr for a family and general practitioner) + (831,785 x 0.167 hr x \$126.92/hr for a nurse practitioner) + (831,785 x 0.167 hr x \$131.64/hr for a physician

assistant)].

Summary of Annual Burden Estimates

Annual Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

Regulation Section(s) in Title 42 of the CFR	Respondents	Total Responses	Time per Response (hr)	Total Time (hr)	Labor Rate (\$/hr)	Capital/Maintenance Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
440.70(f) and (g)	831,785	831,785	0.167	138,908	249.78	0	34,696,440
	831,785	831,785	0.167	138,908	126.92	0	17,630,203
	831,785	831,785	0.167	138,908	131.64	0	18,285,849
Total	831,785	2,495,355	0.167	416,724	Varies	0	70,612,492

Information Collection Instruments/Guidance Documents

Not applicable. We have not provided any voluntary or mandatory forms of documentation. From the federal perspective, our goal is to ensure that required documentation by the practitioner is sufficient to make the linkage between the individual’s health conditions, the services ordered, an appropriate face-to-face encounter, and actual service provision. We encourage documentation requirements established by states to meet this goal, while not imposing additional actual or perceived administrative burden. Electronic Health Records may be of use to support the operational requirements. An electronic signature of the practitioner who completed the documentation is acceptable.

13. Capital Costs

There are no capital costs associated with the requirements set out above under section 12.

14. Cost to Federal Government

There are no costs to the Federal government. There is no information being provided to the Federal government.

15. Changes to Requirements and Burden Estimates

This 2026 information collection request adjusts our cost estimates by using the most recent BLS wage data (May 2024). Our currently approved package used 2021 BLS wage estimates while this 2026 information collection request uses 2024 BLS wage data.

Wage/Cost Changes

Occupation Title	Occupation Code	2021 Adjusted Hourly Wage (\$/hr)	2024 Adjusted Hourly Wage (\$/hr)	Difference (\$/hr)
Average Family and General Physicians	Combined in 2021 (29-1215 and 29-1216) and Averaged	229.88	249.78	+19.90
Nurse Practitioners	29-1171	113.50	126.92	+13.42

Occupation Title	Occupation Code	2021 Adjusted Hourly Wage (\$/hr)	2024 Adjusted Hourly Wage (\$/hr)	Difference (\$/hr)
Physician Assistants	29-1071	114.86	131.64	+16.78

Overall, our cost estimate has increased by \$6,959,290 (from \$63,653,202 to \$70,612,492).

16. Publication/Tabulation Dates

There are no collections of information whose results will be published.

17. Expiration Date

The expiration date will be displayed.

18. Certification Statement

We are not requesting any exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions,” of OMB Form 83-1.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

There are no statistical methods associated with this collection.