

Homebound Status Clarification

2011 - Although Medicare home health services require a homebound status that is not the case for Medicaid home health recipients. The Medicaid agency may not arbitrarily deny or reduce the amount, duration, or scope of a required service under §§440.210 and 440.220 to an otherwise eligible recipient solely because of the diagnosis, type of illness, or condition. It is not the intent that recipients never leave their home for non-medical reasons. It is recognized that people must be able to leave home on occasion even though it requires a considerable and taxing effort. Consideration shall be given to the amount of assistance necessary to transport the recipient. Consideration shall be given to the mental condition of the recipient. The services to be provided shall also be considered when determining if home health services are reasonable. There are instances when it is appropriate that the service be provided in the home setting. There are instances when neither the fact that a recipient is able to be away from home with difficulty, nor the purpose of his trips away from home would have a bearing on appropriateness of home health services. Absences from home for educational purposes would not prevent the recipient from receiving home health services if other requirements are met. Further details on dual eligible recipients of both Medicare and Medicaid are discussed in the [Home Health Issues and Resolutions link](#) dated 11-09.