**Policy**

To ensure residents have a choice in who their physician is and to be seen by their physician or NPP (Non-Physician Practitioner) in a timely manner

**Procedure**

1. The resident has the right to choose a personal physician, but the resident is not required to do so. It also does not mean that the physician the resident chose is obligated to provide service to the resident.
2. In, a SNF, the first physician visit (this includes the initial comprehensive visit) must be conducted within the first 30 days after admission, and then at 30- day interval up until 90 days after the admission date. After the first 90 days, visits must be conducted at least once every 60 days thereafter.
3. **DEFINITIONS §483.30(c) Must be seen,** for purposes of the visits required by §483.30(c)(1), means that the physician or NPP must make actual face-to-face contact with the resident, and at the same physical location, not via a telehealth arrangement. There is no requirement for this type of contact at the time of admission, since the decision to admit an individual to a nursing facility (whether from a hospital or from the individual’s own residence) generally involves physician contact during the period immediately preceding the admission.
4. Permitting up to 10 days’ slippage will not affect the next due date.

**Table 1: Authority for Non-*P*hysician Practitioners to Perform Visits, Sign Orders and Sign Medicare Part A Certifications/Re-certifications when permitted by the State**

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| **SNFs**  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Initial Comprehensive Visits | Admission Orders\* | Other Required Visits & orders^ | Other Medically Necessary Visits & Orders+ | Certification/Recertification + |
| PA, NP & CNS employed by the facility | May not perform | May not provide | May perform alternate visits and sign  | May perform and sign | May not sign |
|  | Initial Comprehensive Visits | Admission Orders\* | Other Required Visits & orders^ | Other Medically Necessary Visits & Orders+ | Certification/Recertification + |
| PA, NP & CNS not a facility employee | May not perform | May not provide | May perform alternate visits and sign | May perform and sign | May Sign as permitted under State laws |

* \* A NPP may provide admission orders if a physician personally approved in writing a recommendation for admission to the facility prior to the resident’s admission. For additional requirements on physician recommendation for admission and admission orders see §483.30(a), F710
* ^ Other required visits are the physician visits required by §483.30(c) (1) other than the initial comprehensive visit.
* + Medically necessary visits are independent of required *physician* visits *§483.30(c)(1)* and may be performed prior to the initial comprehensive visit *as permitted under state laws*.
* + Though not part of a compliance determination for this section, this *column* is provided for clarification and relates specifically to coverage of a Part A Medicare stay *requirements*, which can take place only in a Medicare-certified SNF.