Revisions to Glossary Terms Related to CMS Requirements for Home Health Agencies and Hospices

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online E-dition®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical The Joint Commission Perspectives®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit http://www.jcrinc.com.

Please note: Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

APPLICABLE TO THE HOME CARE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
Effective March 14, 2021

Glossary Terms

allowed practitioner

A physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist (see glossary definitions).

clinical nurse specialist

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A clinical nurse specialist is defined at 42 CFR 410.76(a) and (b) and works in collaboration with a physician as defined in the Glossary.

For Medicare Part B coverage of his or her services, a clinical nurse specialist must have the following qualifications:
- Be a registered nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the state where he or she practices and be authorized to perform the services of a clinical nurse specialist in accordance with state law
- Have a master’s degree in a defined clinical area of nursing from an accredited educational institution or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) doctoral degree
- Be certified as a clinical nurse specialist by a national certifying body that has established standards for clinical nurse specialists and is approved by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

Key: ☰ indicates that documentation is required; ☰ indicates an identified risk area;
close call

A patient safety event that did not reach the patient; also called near miss or good catch.

A patient safety event that did not reach the patient but posed a risk of harm; also called near miss or good catch.

nurse practitioner

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A nurse practitioner is defined at 42 CFR 410.75(a) and (b) and works in collaboration with a physician as defined in the Glossary.

For Medicare Part B coverage of his or her services, a nurse practitioner must have the following qualifications:
- Be a registered professional nurse who is authorized by the state in which the services are furnished to practice as a nurse practitioner in accordance with state law
- And must meet one of the following:
  - Obtained Medicare billing privileges as a nurse practitioner for the first time on or after January 1, 2003; certified as a nurse practitioner by a recognized national certifying body that has established standards for nurse practitioners; possess a master's degree in nursing or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) doctoral degree
  - Obtained Medicare billing privileges as a nurse practitioner for the first time before January 1, 2003 and certified as a nurse practitioner by a recognized national certifying body that has established standards for nurse practitioners
  - Obtained Medicare billing privileges as a nurse practitioner for the first time before January 1, 2001

occupational therapist

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who—
(a)(1) Is licensed or otherwise regulated, if applicable, as an occupational therapist by the State in which practicing, unless licensure does not apply;
(2) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapist education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA), or successor organizations of ACOTE; and
(3) Is eligible to take, or has successfully completed the entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists developed and administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT).
(b) On or before December 31, 2009—
(1) Is licensed or otherwise regulated, if applicable, as an occupational therapist by the State in which practicing; or
(2) When licensure or other regulation does not apply—
(i) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapist education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) or successor organizations of ACOTE; and
(ii) Is eligible to take, or has successfully completed the entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists. 

Key: □ indicates that documentation is required; R indicates an identified risk area;
therapists developed and administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc., (NBCOT).
(c) On or before January 1, 2008—
(1) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapy program accredited jointly by the committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association; or
(2) Is eligible for the National Registration Examination of the American Occupational Therapy Association or the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.
(d) On or before December 31, 1977—
(1) Had 2 years of appropriate experience as an occupational therapist; and
(2) Had achieved a satisfactory grade on an occupational therapist proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.
(e) If educated outside the United States, must meet all of the following:
(1) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapist education program accredited as substantially equivalent to occupational therapist entry level education in the United States by one of the following:
   (i) The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).
   (ii) Successor organizations of ACOTE.
   (iii) The World Federation of Occupational Therapists.
   (iv) A credentialing body approved by the American Occupational Therapy Association.
(2) Successfully completed the entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists developed and administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT).
(3) On or before December 31, 2009, is licensed or otherwise regulated, if applicable, as an occupational therapist by the State in which practicing.
For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who—
(a)(1) Is licensed or otherwise regulated, if applicable, as an occupational therapist by the State in which practicing, unless licensure does not apply;
(2) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapist education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA), or successor organizations of ACOTE; and
(3) Is eligible to take, or has successfully completed the entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists developed and administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT).
(b) On or before December 31, 2009—
(1) Is licensed or otherwise regulated, if applicable, as an occupational therapist by the State in which practicing; or
(2) When licensure or other regulation does not apply—
(i) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapist education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) or successor organizations of ACOTE; and
(ii) Is eligible to take, or has successfully completed the entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists developed and administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc., (NBCOT).
(c) On or before January 1, 2008—
(1) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapy program accredited jointly by the committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association and the American Occupational Therapy Association; or
(2) Is eligible for the National Registration Examination of the American Occupational Therapy Association or the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.
(d) On or before December 31, 1977—
(1) Had 2 years of appropriate experience as an occupational therapist; and
(2) Had achieved a satisfactory grade on an occupational therapist proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.
(e) If educated outside the United States, must meet all of the following:
(1) Graduated after successful completion of an occupational therapist education program accredited as substantially equivalent to occupational therapist entry level education in the United States by one of the following:
(i) The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).
(ii) Successor organizations of ACOTE.
(iii) The World Federation of Occupational Therapists.
(iv) A credentialing body approved by the American Occupational Therapy Association.
(2) Successfully completed the entry-level certification examination for occupational therapists developed and administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT).
(3) On or before December 31, 2009, is licensed or otherwise regulated, if applicable, as an occupational therapist by the State in which practicing.

physical therapist

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who is

Key: indicates that documentation is required; indicates an identified risk area;
licensed, if applicable, by the State in which practicing, unless licensure does not apply and meets one of the following requirements:

(a)(1) Graduated after successful completion of a physical therapist education program approved by one of the following:
   (i) The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
   (ii) Successor organizations of CAPTE.
   (iii) An education program outside the United States determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist entry-level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or an organization identified in 8 CFR 212.15(e) as it relates to physical therapists; and
   (2) Passed an examination for physical therapists approved by the State in which physical therapy services are provided.

(b) On or before December 31, 2009—
   (1) Graduated after successful completion of a physical therapy curriculum approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE); or
   (2) Meets both of the following:
      (i) Graduated after successful completion of an education program determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified in 8 CFR 212.15(e) as it relates to physical therapists.
      (ii) Passed an examination for physical therapists approved by the State in which physical therapy services are provided.

(c) Before January 1, 2008—
   (1) Graduated from a physical therapy curriculum approved by one of the following:
       (ii) The Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association.
   (d) On or before December 31, 1977 was licensed or qualified as a physical therapist and meets both of the following:
      (1) Has 2 years of appropriate experience as a physical therapist.
      (2) Has achieved a satisfactory grade on a proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.

(e) Before January 1, 1966—
   (1) Was admitted to membership by the American Physical Therapy Association; or
   (2) Was admitted to registration by the American Registry of Physical Therapists; or
   (3) Has graduated from a physical therapy curriculum in a 4-year college or university approved by a State department of education.

(f) Before January 1, 1966 was licensed or registered, and before January 1, 1970, had 15 years of full-time experience in the treatment of illness or injury through the practice of physical therapy in which services were rendered under the order and direction of attending and referring doctors of medicine or osteopathy.

(g) If trained outside the United States before January 1, 2008, meets the following requirements:
   (1) Was graduated since 1928 from a physical therapy curriculum approved in the country in which the curriculum was located and in which there is a member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.
   (2) Meets the requirements for membership in a member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.

Key: ☒ indicates that documentation is required; ☐ indicates an identified risk area;
For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who is licensed, if applicable, by the State in which practicing, unless licensure does not apply and meets one of the following requirements:

(a)(1) Graduated after successful completion of a physical therapist education program approved by one of the following:
   (i) The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
   (ii) Successor organizations of CAPTE.
   (iii) An education program outside the United States determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist entry-level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or an organization identified in 8 CFR 212.15(e) as it relates to physical therapists; and
   (2) Passed an examination for physical therapists approved by the State in which physical therapy services are provided.

(b) On or before December 31, 2009—
   (1) Graduated after successful completion of a physical therapy curriculum approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE); or
   (2) Meets both of the following:
      (i) Graduated after successful completion of an education program determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified in 8 CFR 212.15(e) as it relates to physical therapists.
      (ii) Passed an examination for physical therapists approved by the State in which physical therapy services are provided.

(c) Before January 1, 2008—
   (1) Graduated from a physical therapy curriculum approved by one of the following:
      (ii) The Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association.
   (d) On or before December 31, 1977 was licensed or qualified as a physical therapist and meets both of the following:
      (1) Has 2 years of appropriate experience as a physical therapist.
      (2) Has achieved a satisfactory grade on a proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.

(e) Before January 1, 1966—
   (1) Was admitted to membership by the American Physical Therapy Association; or
   (2) Was admitted to registration by the American Registry of Physical Therapists; or
   (3) Has graduated from a physical therapy curriculum in a 4-year college or university approved by a State department of education.

(f) Before January 1, 1966 was licensed or registered, and before January 1, 1970, had 15 years of full-time experience in the treatment of illness or injury through the practice of physical therapy in which services were rendered under the order and direction of attending and referring doctors of medicine or osteopathy.

(g) If trained outside the United States before January 1, 2008, meets the following requirements:
   (1) Was graduated since 1928 from a physical therapy curriculum approved in the country in which the curriculum was located and in which there is a member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.
   (2) Meets the requirements for membership in a member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.
physical therapist assistant

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who is licensed, unless licensure does not apply, registered, or certified as a physical therapist assistant, if applicable, by the State in which practicing, and meets one of the following requirements:

(a)(1) Graduated from a physical therapist assistant curriculum approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association; or if educated outside the United States or trained in the United States military, graduated from an education program determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist assistant entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified at 8 CFR 212.15(e); and

(2) Passed a national examination for physical therapist assistants.

(b) On or before December 31, 2009, meets one of the following:

(1) Is licensed, or otherwise regulated in the State in which practicing.

(2) In States where licensure or other regulations do not apply, graduated on or before December 31, 2009, from a 2-year college-level program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and, effective January 1, 2010 meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this definition.

(c) Before January 1, 2008, where licensure or other regulation does not apply, graduated from a 2-year college-level program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association.

(d) On or before December 31, 1977, was licensed or qualified as a physical therapist assistant and has achieved a satisfactory grade on a proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.

For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who is licensed, unless licensure does not apply, registered, or certified as a physical therapist assistant, if applicable, by the State in which practicing, and meets one of the following requirements:

(a) Graduated from a physical therapist assistant curriculum approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association; or if educated outside the United States or trained in the United States military, graduated from an education program determined to be substantially equivalent to physical therapist assistant entry level education in the United States by a credentials evaluation organization approved by the American Physical Therapy Association or identified at 8 CFR 212.15(e); and

(2) Passed a national examination for physical therapist assistants.

(b) On or before December 31, 2009, meets one of the following:

(1) Is licensed, or otherwise regulated in the State in which practicing.

(2) In States where licensure or other regulations do not apply, graduated on or before December 31, 2009, from a 2-year college-level program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and, effective January 1, 2010 meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this definition.

(c) Before January 1, 2008, where licensure or other regulation does not apply, graduated from a 2-year college-level program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association.

(d) On or before December 31, 1977, was licensed or qualified as a physical therapist assistant and has achieved a satisfactory grade on a proficiency examination conducted, approved, or sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.
physician assistant

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: Physician assistant is defined at 42 CFR 410.74(a) and (c).

For Medicare Part B coverage of his or her services, a physician assistant must meet all the following qualifications:
- Graduated from a physician assistant educational program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or
- Passed the national certification examination that is administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants; and
- Be licensed by the state to practice as a physician assistant.

registered nurse (RN)

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A graduate of an approved school of professional nursing, who is licensed as a registered nurse in the state where practicing.

For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A graduate of an approved school of professional nursing, who is licensed as a registered nurse in the state where practicing.

social worker (hospice)

For hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A person who has at least a bachelor's degree from a school accredited or approved by the Council on Social Work Education.

For hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A social worker is qualified by the following:
- Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; or
- Baccalaureate degree in social work from an institution accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or a baccalaureate degree in psychology, sociology, or other field related to social work and is supervised by an individual with a MSW degree; and
- One year of social work experience in a healthcare setting; or
- Baccalaureate degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, employed by the hospice before December 2, 2008, and not required to be supervised by an individual with a MSW degree.

speech-language pathologist

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A speech-language pathologist is qualified by one of the following:
(1) Meets the education and experience requirements for a Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech
pathology or audiology granted by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(2) Meets the educational requirements for certification and is in the process of accumulating the supervised experience required for certification

For home health agencies and hospices that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A speech-language pathologist is qualified by one of the following:
(1) Meets the education and experience requirements for a Certificate of Clinical Competence in speech pathology or audiology granted by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
(2) Meets the educational requirements for certification and is in the process of accumulating the supervised experience required for certification

verbal order

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A physician order that is spoken to authorized staff and later put in writing for the purposes of documenting, as well as establishing or revising the patient’s plan of care.

For home health agencies that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A physician order that is spoken to appropriate staff and later put in writing for the purposes of documenting, as well as establishing or revising the patient’s plan of care.