



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
Pharmacy & Ancillary Services Unit

4501 Business Park Blvd., Suite 24, Bldg L  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-7167  
Main: 907.334.2400  
Fax: 907.561.1684

DATE: 06/01/2017  
TO: Alaska Medicaid Durable Medical Equipment Providers  
FROM: Kristina Rice, Alaska Medicaid DME Program Manager  
RE: Durable Medical Equipment Face-to-Face Requirements

Effective July 1, 2017, in accordance with 42 CFR 440.70, enrolled Durable Medical Equipment providers and Home Health providers will be required to follow the face-to-face requirements set forth in the federal regulation for Alaska Medicaid members.

- For the initiation of durable medical equipment, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the member requires medical equipment and must occur no more than 6 months prior to the start of services.
- For the initiation of home health services, the face-to-face encounter must be related to the primary reason the member requires home health services and must occur within the 90 days before or within 30 days after the start of the services.
- The face-to-face encounter may be conducted by one of the following practitioners, in accordance with state law:
  - Physician
  - Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Physician Assistant, under the supervision of a physician
  - For members admitted to home health immediately after an acute or post-acute stay, the attending acute or post-acute physician
- The allowed non-physician practitioners, as described above, performing the face-to-face encounter must communicate the clinical findings of that face-to-face encounter to the ordering physician. Those clinical findings must be incorporated into a written or electronic document included in the member's medical record.

For more in-depth information related to this final rule, please go to:  
<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-02-02/pdf/2016-01585.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 907.334.2418 or [kristina.rice@alaska.gov](mailto:kristina.rice@alaska.gov).