Face-to-Face Encounter Examples
For Physician Documentation

I certify that this patient is under my care and that I, or a Medicare or Medicaid enrolled NPP* (a nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant working with me), had a face-to-face encounter with this patient that was in whole or in part related to the reason the patient needs home health services.

*The NPP encounter must be co-signed by the certifying physician or the acute/post-acute care physician.

Examples of how the findings of this encounter support:

THE NEED FOR SKILLED NURSING OR THERAPY SERVICES
• Skilled nursing is needed to provide treatments and care safely and effectively
• Skilled nursing assessment/observation is needed due to the potential for complications or exacerbation of the patient’s condition
• Skilled nursing is needed for teaching/training the patient/caregiver to manage the treatment regimen for this illness or condition
• Services of a skilled therapist are needed due to the complexity of the therapy needed to treat the injury, illness or condition

THE PATIENT IS HOMEBOUND
• The patient requires the assistance of a person or device to safely leave home
• Absences from home are contraindicated except to receive medical treatment
• Post-surgical restrictions and/or condition limit ability to leave home
• Leaving the home requires considerable and taxing effort due to a medical condition
• Altered mental status requires supervision when leaving home
• Severity of cardiac or pulmonary disease limits activity tolerance