

Eli's Hospice Insider

Reader Question: Beware Claiming Therapy As Unrelated To Hospice

Reviewers are cracking down on what's considered unrelated to the terminal diagnosis.

Question: Will Part B sometimes pay for rehab therapy for a patient on hospice?

Answer: "Although it is allowable to provide Part B therapy to hospice patients, I think it's very difficult to meet the Medicare regulatory requirements outside the hospice benefit," says attorney **Roshunda Drummond-Dye** with the **American Physical Therapy Association**.

Consultant **Beth Carpenter** says "it's increasingly become hard for medical reviewers who review charts to believe everything isn't related to the hospice diagnosis. For example, if the person has cancer metastasis and breaks a bone, the medical reviewer will say the fracture is related to the medication the person is receiving or the hospice diagnosis," adds Carpenter, with **Beth Carpenter and Associates** in Lake Barrington, Ill.