

Eli's Hospice Insider

Reader Question: Don't Risk Your Compliance -- Or Your Reimbursement -- With Too-Early Certification

Know your certification basics.

Question: I know we have until two days after admission to obtain either a written certification from the physician or an oral certification. But can we get a cert early?

Answer: Yes, but not too early. "You cannot get a certification or recertification more than 15 days prior to the start of the benefit period," said hospice expert **Charlene Ross** in a recent **Eli**-sponsored audioconference. "Be really careful on how far out your dates are, because it must be within ... 15 days prior to the start of the benefit period," Ross emphasized in the program, "Hospice Eligibility and Certification □ the Continuing Saga."

Resource: You can order a recording of the audioconference at www.audioeducator.com/hospice/regulatory-requirements-certification-recertification.html.