

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Reader Question: When Should You Use Q5003 Versus Q5004 For Hospice?

**You may have to tweak your information-gathering for nursing home residents.**

**Question:** How do we know whether to code Q5003 or Q5004 for our hospice patient who resides in a nursing home?

**Answer:** "We have clarified the differences between site of service HCPCS codes Q5003 and Q5004, and replaced the previous description of the differences with the following language," the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** notes in Change Request 8877. "Q5004 shall be used for hospice patients in a skilled nursing facility (SNF), or hospice patients in the SNF portion of a dually-certified nursing facility. There are 4 situations where this would occur:

1. If the beneficiary is receiving hospice care in a solely-certified SNF.
2. If the beneficiary is receiving general inpatient [GIP] care in the SNF.
3. If the beneficiary is in a SNF receiving SNF care under the Medicare SNF benefit for a condition unrelated to the terminal illness and related conditions, and is receiving hospice routine home care; this is uncommon.
4. If the beneficiary is receiving inpatient respite care in an SNF."

**Clarification:** "If a beneficiary is in a nursing facility but doesn't meet the criteria above for Q5004, the site shall be coded as Q5003, for a long term care nursing facility," CMS explains in the CR.

**Don't wait:** "Ensure appropriate use of the Q5003 and Q5004 site of service HCPCS codes now," the **National Association for Home Care & Hospice** advises its members. "This may require modification to existing policies and processes for patients residing in dually-certified facilities. For instance, the hospice will need to know which portion of the building the patient resides in."

Note: See the transmittal at [www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3032CP.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3032CP.pdf).