



## **Physician Certification Statement Overview**

The physician's certification statement (PCS) must support the assertion that ambulance transportation was reasonable and necessary and that the beneficiary's medical condition supported the necessity of the ambulance transport.

### **When a PCS is required:**

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- When the patient is a Medicare beneficiary.
  - For non-emergency, scheduled repetitive ambulance transports
  - For scheduled and unscheduled, non-emergency ambulance transports (non-repetitive) of a beneficiary who is a resident of a facility.
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### **When a PCS is NOT required:**

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- Emergency transports
  - Non-emergency ambulance transports for a beneficiary who, at the time of transport, is residing either at home or in a facility and is not under the direct care of a physician.
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### **Can someone other than the physician sign the PCS form?**

Yes, but only for non-repetitive transports, and only if the beneficiary's physician is not available. It may be signed instead by a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, registered nurse or discharge planner.

**For repetitive transports**, PCS forms must be signed by the beneficiary's physician and dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the date of service.

*NOTE: A PCS is not a guarantee of payment. Medicare's guidelines must still be met to ensure payment. If Medicare denies the claim, a Letter of Medical Necessity from the beneficiary's physician may be required to file an appeal, even if a PCS was previously obtained.*