Physician Certification Statement

POLICY

THE RULE

1. The PCS certifies the medical necessity of ambulance transportation
2. The PCS must be signed by appropriate hospital personnel before transport, when required
3. The sending physician is required for all PCS forms
4. The signer must be authorized (RN, PA, MD, DO, case manager, etc.), with accurate, complete credentials
5. Transport patients to the closest appropriate facility — patient preference alone does not determine destination

WHY IT EXISTS

- Why the patient is being transported validates the safest method of transport
- It documents the circumstances affecting destination and services
- 'Bed confined' is not synonymous with 'bed rest' or 'non-ambulatory'
- Bed confinement alone is neither sufficient nor necessary for Medicare ambulance coverage — it is one element of the beneficiary's condition

APPLIES WHEN

- Covered services: inter-facility transports; transports from hospital to home or nursing facility; any non-emergent transport
- Required when some or all of the requested service is not covered by Medicare (e.g., home to nursing home or facility for respite care)
- Describe the patient's condition at the time of transport and why ambulance transport is required

EXCEPTIONS & EDGE CASES

- No PCS is required in the presence of an ABN
- Very rarely will a transport not meet medical necessity
- If the patient does not meet medical necessity, select 'No Other Means of Transport' in consumables
- If transporting from a Mercy facility, select 'Transport Benefit Health System'
- Complete the screening portion of the PCS; if screening criteria are not met, no other information is needed

DOCUMENT IT

- Patient's condition at time of transport, and why transport by ambulance is required
- Authorized signature with accurate, complete credentials

Take Home Message:

The PCS proves the ambulance was medically necessary — signed by an authorized person, before transport, whenever it is required.