

**File Number:** H.F. 1532  
**Version:** As introduced

**Date:** March 3, 2017

**Authors:** Zerwas

**Subject:** Home Health Services

**Analyst:** Danyell A. Punelli

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

### Overview

This bill modifies home health services by requiring a face-to-face encounter with a qualifying provider and allowing services to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the service recipient.

Home care provides medical and health-related services and assistance with day-to-day activities to people in their home. It can be used to provide short-term care for people moving from a hospital or nursing home back to their home, or it can also be used to provide continuing care to people with ongoing needs. Home care services may also be provided outside the person's home when normal life activities take them away from home.

#### Section

- 1 **Home health services.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 6a. Allows MA to cover home health services provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient.
- 2 **Definitions.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 2. Modifies the definition of "home health agency services."
- 3 **Home health aide visits.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 3. Allows home health aide visits to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient.
- 4 **Skilled nurse visit services.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 4. Allows skilled nurse visits to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient.

## Section

- 5**        **Home care therapies.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 5. Allows home care therapies to be provided in the community where normal life activities take the recipient. Home care therapies include physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, and speech and language pathology therapy services.
- 6**        **Noncovered home health agency services.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 6. Modifies the list of noncovered home health agency services by removing from the list home care therapies provided at a day program and adding to the list home health agency services initiated without documentation of a face-to-face encounter.
- 7**        **Face-to-face encounter.** Amends § 256B.0653, subd. 7. Requires a face-to-face encounter to be completed for all home health services, except when providing a one-time perinatal visit by skilled nursing. Allows the face-to-face encounter to occur through telemedicine. Specifies when the encounter must occur and who may conduct the encounter. Lists duties of the physician responsible for ordering the services. For home health services requiring prior authorization, specifies that home health agencies need not submit the qualifying documentation to the commissioner prior to authorization of home health services. Applies this subdivision only to fee-for-service MA. Prohibits managed care plans and county-based purchasing plans from requiring face-to-face encounters for home health services provided under MA managed care.