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MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE

Kenneth Cleveland, M.D. | Executive Director

Dear Licensee of MSBML:

In case you are not aware, the new regulations involving the practice of Hospice care went into effect on February 2, 2020. For the past several years the Board has worked diligently with Medical Directors of Hospice, Hospice Associations, DEA, MBN and other stake holders to promulgate these regulations. This included many informal sessions as well as public hearings. The Board listened carefully to everyone and attempted to reach a compromise that will allow the highest quality of care for hospice patients while also protecting the safety of the public. A few things are worth noting and are further elaborated on below.

1. Although self-referring is allowed, it is preferred that patients be referred to hospice by their treating physician. If a patient is self-referred, a consult must be obtained to validate the admission to hospice. Importantly, Medical Directors must disclose in writing that their patient has been admitted to hospice. (Similar to a letter a consulting physician would send to the referring physician.)
2. The patient's chart has been thoroughly reviewed by the Medical Director and just cause exist for admission to hospice.
3. A new admission to hospice may be prescribed appropriate medicine as long as an evaluation by a person (MD,DO,NP,PA) with prescriptive authority, who is writing the majority of the prescriptions, occurs no later than 30 days after admission.

I hope this helps explain the new regulations. I will be at the PHP prescribing summits this year and will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Cleveland".

Kenneth E. Cleveland, M.D.
Executive Director