

Hospice Benefits

Under the Medicare Hospice Benefit, which one of the following admission criteria is **not** required:

- a) a physician/NP of record is identified
- b) DNR (no code) status
- c) expected prognosis of 6 months or less
- d) the approach is limited to a palliative, symptom-oriented approach

Answer - B.

Under Federal rules, DNR status may not be used as a criteria for admission under the Medicare Hospice Benefit. Although it seems counter-intuitive, Medicare realized that forcing patients to choose DNR status placed an undue burden on patients that would limit enrollment of otherwise eligible patients.