



IOWA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL CARE

Beneficiary Improvement and Protection Act (BIPA) Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Suppose that a beneficiary is receiving physical therapy, wound care, and an “IV” in a facility. If the facility only discontinues the IV, is it required to deliver a generic notice to the beneficiary two days prior to the IV ending?**

When one set of services ends, but other Medicare-covered services continue, a provider is not required to deliver the generic notice. The generic notice should be given only when the beneficiary will no longer receive any Medicare-covered services from the provider.

- 2) Is the provider required to obtain a beneficiary’s signature on the generic notice or detailed notice?**

The provider must obtain the beneficiary’s or authorized representative’s signature on the generic notice, which is evidence that the beneficiary received the notice, and annotate the notice in cases where the beneficiary refuses to sign. The provider does not need to obtain the beneficiary’s or authorized representative’s signature on the detailed notice.

- 3) In the instances when notices may be mailed, must I use certified mail?**

No, any mailing/delivery method may be used. However, the burden rests on the provider to demonstrate that the notice has been validly delivered or that reasonable effort has been made to deliver the notice.

- 4) If a beneficiary agrees that services should end on the service termination date, is the provider still required to deliver the generic notice?**

Yes, the provider must deliver the generic notice in all applicable situations, regardless of whether the beneficiary agrees that services should end.

- 5) If a beneficiary chooses to terminate services, does a notice need to be delivered?**

No, the provider does not need to deliver a notice in this situation.

6) If a beneficiary meets his or her treatment goals earlier than anticipated, e.g., for the specific purpose of rehabilitation, does the provider need to deliver the generic notice?

Yes, whenever Medicare coverage of services ends, the generic notice must be delivered.