



**ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY**

**NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION**

**RULE NO. & TITLE:** 560-X-51-.01 – Hospice Care General

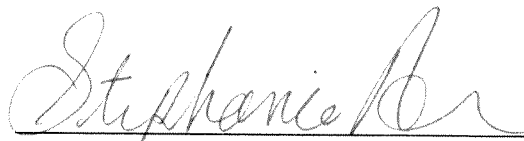
**INTENDED ACTION:** Amend 560-X-51-.01(1)

**SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The above-referenced rule is being amended to clarify that hospice care services are available if medically necessary for full Medicaid eligible recipients certified as being terminally ill and to make minor cosmetic changes.

**TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS:** Written or oral comments may be submitted to the Alabama Medicaid Agency, 501 Dexter Avenue, Post Office Box 5624, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624. Agency business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE:** Written/Oral comments concerning this change must be received by the Alabama Medicaid Agency no later than August 3, 2012.

**CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:** Stephanie Lindsay, Administrative Secretary, Alabama Medicaid Agency, 501 Dexter Avenue, Post Office Box 5624, Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5624.



Stephanie McGee Azar  
Acting Commissioner

## **Chapter 51. Hospice Care.**

### **Rule No. 560-X-51-.01. Hospice Care - General.**

(1) Hospice care services are available if medically necessary for ~~at full~~ Medicaid eligible recipients certified as being terminally ill. Medical certification is required by the individual's attending physician; however, if the recipient does not have a primary attending physician, certification may be given by the Hospice Team physician or the hospice medical director. Certification of the terminal illness of an individual who elects hospice shall be based on the attending physician, hospice team physician, or hospice medical director's clinical judgment regarding the normal course of the individual's illness. Certifications of terminal illness must include specific findings and other medical documentation including, but not limited to, medical records, lab x-rays, pathology reports, etc. Hospice care means services which are necessary for the palliation or management of the terminal illness and related conditions.

(2) Alabama Medicaid Hospice Care services are subject to Medicare special election periods applicable to hospice care. Medicaid will utilize the most recent benefit periods established by the Medicare Program.

**Author:** Felicha Fisher, Administrator, LTC Provider/Recipient Services Unit, Long Term Care Division.

**Statutory Authority:** Title XIX, Social Security Act; 42 CFR Section 418.20; State Medicaid Manual; and State Plan Attachment 3.1-A, page 7.18.

**History:** Rule effective February 13, 1991. Emergency Rule effective May 15, 1991.

**Amended:** August 14, 1991 and September 9, 1998. **Amended:** Filed March 20, 2001; effective June 20, 2001. **Amended:** Filed June 20, 2012