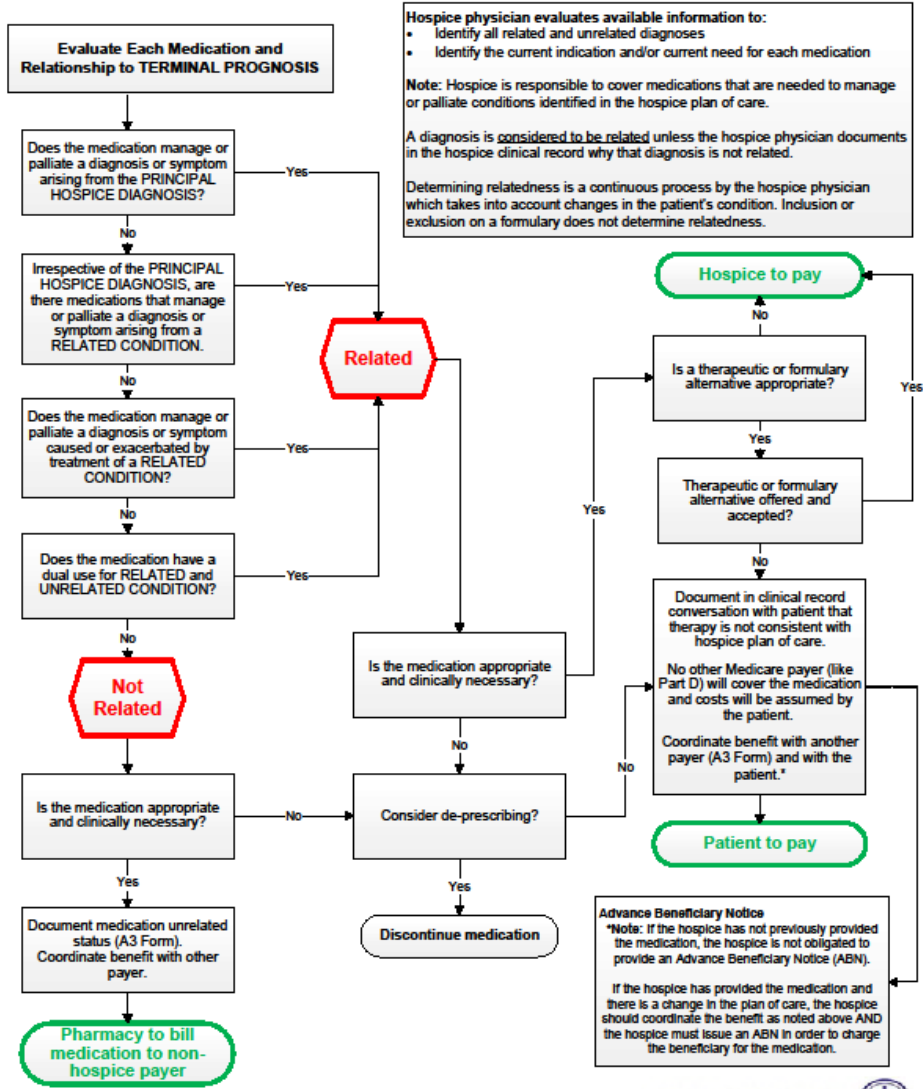


# Determination of Hospice Medication Coverage

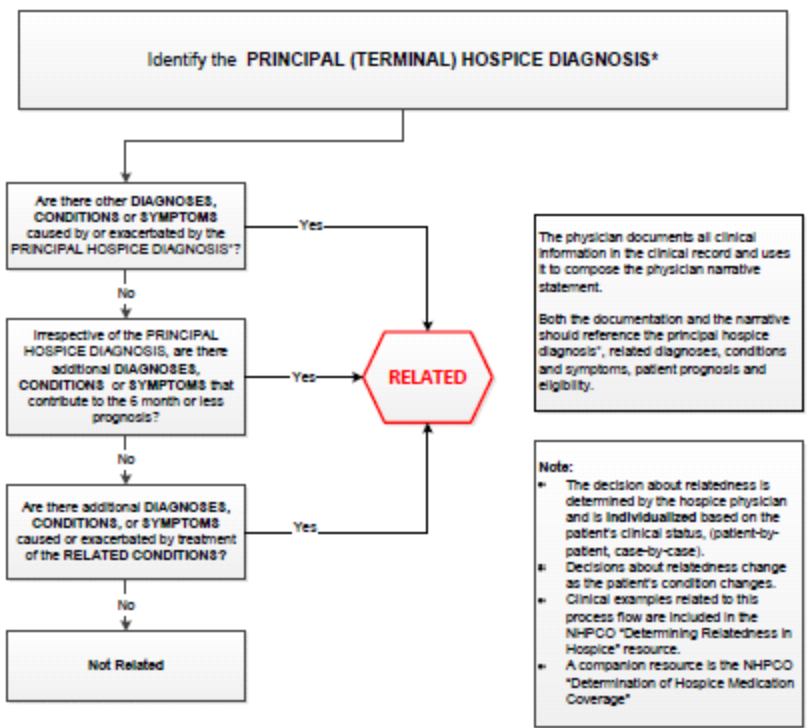
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization



Physician uses all available clinical information to evaluate for:

- Terminal prognosis of 6 months or less
- Terminal and related diagnoses that contribute to the terminal prognosis – all diagnoses that impact the terminal prognosis
- Symptoms caused or exacerbated by terminal diagnosis, related diagnosis or treatment of terminal and related diagnoses

Note: Per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) virtually all diagnoses are related to the terminal prognosis. A diagnosis is considered to be related unless the hospice physician documents in the hospice clinical record why that diagnosis is not related. Determining relatedness is a continuous process by the hospice physician which takes into account the changes in the patient's condition.



*\*The following are used as equivalent terms:  
 terminal hospice diagnosis = principal hospice diagnosis = primary terminal diagnosis = primary hospice condition  
 Out of all the prognosis-impacting diagnoses, this is the diagnosis reported to CMS.  
 All diagnoses related and unrelated should be reported.*