



Comparison of Home Health and Hospice Programs

Note: Insurance providers may have special provisions for Hospice benefits which vary from what is described here.

Home Health Care		Hospice
Patient needs part-time intermittent skilled care, needs to be homebound.	Criteria	Patient is certified terminally ill by physician, elects hospice benefit. Does not need to be homebound.
Covered for part-time or intermittent skilled care and personal cares.	RN	Covered for skilled and supportive care.
80% of approved charges covered under Part B	Physician	100% covered for services related to the hospice diagnosis with prior approval.
Covered for services to patient only.	Social Worker	Covered for services to patient and caregivers.
Not covered.	Spiritual Counselor	Covered for services to patient and caregivers.
Covered for part-time or intermittent care for personal care.	Home Health Aide	Covered as specified in plan of care.
Not provided.	Volunteers	Provided as specified in plan of care.
Medical necessity, skilled service	PT, OT, Speech	Covered as specified in plan of care.
Not covered.	Dietitian	Covered as specified in plan of care.
Covered under Part A hospital benefit.	Inpatient Care	Hospital stay provided for pain, symptoms or psychosocial crises.
Not covered.	Respite Care	Provided for up to 5 days when needed by family.
Not covered.	Services to Nursing Home Residents	Hospice services as above for terminally ill patients (excludes room and board).
Included urgent nursing needs only.	24- Hour On-Call Services	RN available on-call 24/7.
Not included.	Bereavement Follow-up	Resources and support to families and caregivers for 13 months following pt's death.
Not covered.	Medication	Prescription medications related to terminal condition(s) are covered when approved by Hospice Team.
Covered at 80% of approved Medicare amount.	Durable Medical Equipment	100% covered if approved by Hospice Team.
Covered.	Medical Supplies	Covered if approved by Hospice Team and related to terminal illness.