

Hospice vs. Home Health Care



HOSPICE

HOME HEALTH CARE

- Physician supervises care along with interdisciplinary team
- RN makes the initial evaluation and consults with MD and interdisciplinary team to develop the plan of care
- A licensed social worker is a core member of the interdisciplinary team
- Volunteers are required and complete comprehensive training
- Patient or caregiver can request and are eligible for hospice services with a terminal diagnosis
- Frequency and intensity of services increases as patient's condition declines / end of life nears
- 24-hour care provided only in the inpatient centers. Hospice Aide visits vary based on the plan of care, but can be adjusted as needed
- Care is focused on patient/caregiver/family. Family and caregivers receive counseling - emotional/spiritual, bereavement
- Reimbursement is per diem under Medicare / commercial insurance and includes:
 - all visits by the care team
 - medications related to terminal illness
 - supplies and DME related to care
- Care can be provided wherever the patient calls home - home, independent living, assisted living, nursing facility or hospital. Patient does not have to be homebound
- DME is provided by Hospice, if related to the terminal / life-limiting diagnosis. Oxygen is provided if the physician orders it and it is covered under per diem
- Hospice provides 24-hour pharmacy services to patients. Medications related to the terminal diagnosis are covered by the per diem
- On-call nurse available 24-hours per day. Other team members / services available as needed
- Spiritual care provided by non-denominational hospice spiritual caregiver or by your own minister

- Physician or RN supervises care
- RN or skilled therapist makes the initial assessment and initiates the plan of care and treatment
- A social worker is optional
- Volunteer services are not required
- Patient required to have skilled nursing or therapy services need
- Intensity of services generally decreases as the patient's condition improves and/or is discharged
- No 24-hour caregiver provided. Home Health Aide visits intermittently according to Medicare guidelines
- Care is patient focused only
- Reimbursement is per episode of care
- Care is provided in the patient's home. The patient must be homebound except for medically related visits
- DME only provided with a prescription
- No pharmacy services
- Services limited to availability. On-call nurse typically available
- No spiritual care provided