

# Home Health Care

A Medicare Scholar Presentation

# When recovering from an illness or injury, your doctor may recommend that you receive some form of rehabilitation

- Inpatient in a Skilled Nursing Facility
- Outpatient therapy, like physical, occupation, and speech-language pathology
- Home Health Care

# Home Health Care

In general, the goal of home health care is to treat an illness or injury.

Home health care helps you:

- Get better
- Regain your independence
- Become as self-sufficient as possible
- Maintain your current condition or level of function

# What's Covered?

- Intermittent Skilled Nursing Care
- Physical therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech-Language Pathology Services
- Home Health Aide services
- Medical Social services
- Medical Supplies



# What's Covered?

Examples of skilled home health services include:

- Wound care for pressure sores or a surgical wound
- Patient and caregiver education
- Intravenous or nutrition therapy
- Injections
- Monitoring serious illness and unstable health status



# Medicare Doesn't Pay For:

- 24-hour-a-day care at home
- Meals delivered to your home
- Homemaker services like shopping, cleaning and laundry
- Custodial, or personal care, like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom when this is the only care you need.

# Eligibility

- You're under the care of a doctor, and you're getting services under a plan of care
- You need, and a doctor certifies that you need, one or more of:
  - Intermittent skilled nursing care (other than drawing blood)
  - Physical Therapy
  - Speech-language pathology services
  - Continued occupational therapy

# Eligibility continued

- Your doctor certified that you're homebound, meaning:
  - You have trouble leaving your home without help because of an illness or injury, or leaving your home isn't recommended because of your condition, or
  - You're normally unable to leave your home, but if you do it requires a major effort
- The home health agency caring for you is approved by Medicare

# Plan of Care

A plan of care lists what kind of services and care you should get for your condition:

- What services you need
- Which healthcare professionals should give these services
- Visit schedule
- How often you'll need the services
- Needed medical equipment
- What results your doctor expects treatment

# What to Expect

- The agency will schedule an appointment to talk about your needs and ask some questions about your health
- The agency will talk to your doctor about your care and keep your doctor updated
- It's important that the home health staff see you as often as the doctor ordered

# What to Expect continued

## The home health staff should:

- Check what you're eating and drinking
- Check your blood pressure, temperature, heart rate, and breathing
- Check that you're taking your prescriptions and other drugs and any treatment correctly
- Ask if you're having pain
- Check your safety in the home
- Teach you about your care so you can take care of yourself
- Coordinate your care with you, your doctor, and anyone else who cares for you

# What You Pay

If you're enrolled in Original Medicare, you pay nothing for services except:

- 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for Medicare-covered equipment, like wheelchairs, walkers, and oxygen equipment
- Any non-Medicare covered services or supplies

# What You Pay continued

- Ask the home health care agency about what services Medicare will pay for and what is not covered.
- Home health agencies must notify you of the cost of services in writing before starting care

# Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN)

The agency must give you a written notice before giving you a service or supply that Medicare probably won't pay for. The notice should describe the service/supply and why Medicare won't pay.

A. Notifier: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN)

**NOTE:** If Medicare doesn't pay for D. \_\_\_\_\_ below, you may have to pay. Medicare does not pay for everything, even some care that you or your health care provider have good reason to think you need. We expect Medicare may not pay for the D. \_\_\_\_\_ below.

D.	E. Reason Medicare May Not Pay:	F. Estimated Cost

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW:**

- Read this notice, so you can make an informed decision about your care.
- Ask us any questions that you may have after you finish reading.
- Choose an option below about whether to receive the D. \_\_\_\_\_ listed above. **Note:** If you choose Option 1 or 2, we may help you to use any other insurance that you might have, but Medicare cannot require us to do this.

**G. OPTIONS: Check only one box. We cannot choose a box for you.**

**OPTION 1.** I want the D. \_\_\_\_\_ listed above. You may ask to be paid now, but I also want Medicare billed for an official decision on payment, which is sent to me on a Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). I understand that if Medicare doesn't pay, I am responsible for payment, but I can appeal to Medicare by following the directions on the MSN. If Medicare does pay, you will refund any payments I made to you, less co-pays or deductibles.

**OPTION 2.** I want the D. \_\_\_\_\_ listed above, but do not bill Medicare. You may ask to be paid now as I am responsible for payment. I cannot appeal if Medicare is not billed.

**OPTION 3.** I don't want the D. \_\_\_\_\_ listed above. I understand with this choice I am not responsible for payment, and I cannot appeal to see if Medicare would pay.

H. Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

J. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Form CMS-R-131 (Exp. 03/2020)

Form Approved OMB No. 0938-0566

# Comparing Home Health Agencies

[www.medicare.gov/HomeHealthCompare](http://www.medicare.gov/HomeHealthCompare)

Shows you information about agencies in your area

- Name, address, phone number
- Services offered
- Initial date of Medicare certification
- Type of ownership (for profit, government, non-profit)
- Quality Measures

# Comparing Home Health Agencies

The screenshot shows the Medicare.gov Home Health Compare website. At the top, the Medicare.gov logo is displayed next to the text "Home Health Compare" and "The Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare". Below this are navigation buttons for "Home Health Compare Home", "About Home Health Compare", "About the data", "Resources", and "Help". A "Share" button is also present. The main heading is "Find a home health agency". Below this is a section titled "Learn about what home health care includes" which contains a search form. The form has a note: "A field with an asterisk (\*) is required." and a label for "\* Location" with an example: "45802 or Lima, OH or Ohio". There is a text input field for "ZIP Code or City, State or State". Below that is a label for "Home Health Agency Name (optional)" and a text input field for "Full or partial home health name". A green "Search" button is at the bottom of the form. To the right of the form is a photograph of a smiling elderly woman sitting on a green sofa, with a male healthcare worker in blue scrubs sitting next to her, holding a clipboard. Below the search form are three informational boxes: "Spotlight" with three bullet points about comparing agencies, "Additional Information" with two bullet points about data updates and database downloads, and "Tools and Tips" with three bullet points about Medicare coverage, filing complaints, and finding providers.

**Medicare.gov | Home Health Compare**  
The Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare

Home Health Compare Home About Home Health Compare About the data Resources Help

Home

## Find a home health agency

Learn about what home health care includes

A field with an asterisk (\*) is required.

\* **Location**  
Example: 45802 or Lima, OH or Ohio

ZIP Code or City, State or State

Home Health Agency Name (optional)  
Full or partial home health name

Search



**Spotlight**

- ◆ Compare home health agencies using the patient survey star ratings. [Learn more](#)
- ◆ Compare agencies using the quality of patient care star rating. [Learn more](#)
- ◆ Use this [home health agency](#)

**Additional Information**

- ◆ **Home Health Compare data last updated:** April 30, 2020. (Data are generally updated quarterly: January, April, July, and October.)
- ◆ [Download the Home Health Compare database.](#)

**Tools and Tips**

- ◆ [Learn how Medicare covers home health care.](#)
- ◆ [How to file a complaint about the quality of your care.](#)
- ◆ [Find and compare other healthcare providers like doctors, hospitals,](#)

# Is Home Care Different?

- Non-skilled or custodial care
- Includes activities of daily living like
  - Bathing
  - Dressing
  - Eating
  - Chores
  - Health-related care that most people can do on their own, like taking insulin
- You may need to pay for Home Care separately while receiving Home Health Care

	Home Health Care	Home Care
Original Medicare Approved	Yes	No
Medicare Advantage Approved	Yes, may vary by plan	No
Covers Long Term Care	No	Yes, if specified
Skilled Nursing	Yes	No
Rehabilitation Therapy	Yes	No
Meal Preparation	No	Yes
Activities of Daily Living (bathing, cleaning etc.)	No	Yes



Questions?

Thank You for  
Attending!

# Sources

- <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/home-health-services>
- CMS Publication No. 10969 *Medicare and Home Health Care* – Revised October 2017
- <https://www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers/whats-home-health-care>
- <https://www.medicare.gov/homehealthcompare>