



/Advocacy for Home & Hospice Care Services of New Mexico

What is Home Health Care?

At its basic level, "home health care" means exactly what it sounds like – health care provided in a patient's home. It is usually covered by Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurers. Home health care includes:

- Skilled care given by health care professionals, such as nurses, physical, occupational and speech therapists;
- Other support services such as assistance with daily living from a highly qualified home health aide;
- The care must be ordered by a physician; and
- The care itself is usually less expensive, more convenient than and just as effective as care given in a hospital or skilled nursing facility.

What is Hospice?

Hospice is specialized care designed to give support to a person at the end of life. Hospice is covered by Medicare, Medicaid and many private insurance policies. Hospice care:

- Addresses the patient's physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs;
- Also helps the patient's family and caregivers;
- Concentrates on managing a patient's pain and other symptoms; and
- Aims to keep people free of pain so that they can live their last days as fully as possible.

What are Personal Care/Private Duty Services?

Personal Care Services are part of Centennial Care under Medicaid; Personal care services may also be paid for privately. Services include:

- Assistance with some or all activities of daily living, such as:
 - Bathing
 - Dressing
 - Preparing Meals
- Their purpose is to avoid institutionalization and/or to increase an individual's opportunity to remain independent

Home Health Care is a High-Value, Low Cost Provider

Experienced in Caring for Complex Patients

- 4 out of 5 home care patients have 3 or more chronic conditions
- 62% have incomes at or below \$25,000 per year
- 60% are older than 65 years of age

Demonstrated Improvements in Outcomes

- 65% experienced improvement in breathing
- 89% had improvement in wound healing
- 68% reported less pain

Lowest Cost Post-Acute Care Provider

- \$8,000 less, on average, than all other long term care settings
- Home is the venue of choice among older Americans

Source: Lee, T and Schiller, J HHN, Feb 2015

Skilled Home Health Care and Personal Care Services Save Medicaid Money

Assists Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to:

- Avoid unnecessary emergency department visits
- Locate members in order to complete required health risk assessments
- Coordinate with primary care providers and patient centered medical homes
- Foster the use of tele-health

Partners with Managed Care Organizations in Care Coordination Activities By:

- Participating in inter-disciplinary care meetings
- Working with care coordinators to identify changes in patient conditions and identifying additional needs
- Facilitating communication between family members, caregivers and managed care organizations
- **Actively** engaging in working on both behavioral health and physical health needs of patients