

Medicare Benefits Coverage

	Hospice Benefit	Home Health Benefit
Visiting Nurse	Covered; patient does not need to be homebound	Only if patient is homebound and has teachable caregiver in home
Visiting Nurse Assistant	Covered	Covered if patient qualifies
Psychosocial Services	Covered	Covered if patient qualifies
Spiritual Care	Covered	Not available
Volunteers	Covered	Not available
Medications Related to Hospice Diagnosis	Covered	Not available
Home Medical Equipment	Covered 100%; no copay or deductible	Covered 80% under Medicare Part B (must qualify)
Respite Care	Covered	Not available
24/7 After Hours Support & Visits	Covered	After hours availability varies significantly between agencies. Emergencies are often handled by the hospital ER
Inpatient Care	Covered for acute symptom management	Not available
Continuous Care	Covered for acute symptom management	Only available where need is finite and predictable
Medical & Disposable Supplies	Covered	Some supplies covered; patient must qualify
Dietician Services	Covered based on patient need	Patient must qualify
Physical, Speech Occupational Therapies	Covered based on patient need	Covered w/restrictions on occupational therapy
Oxygen	Covered 100%; no copay or deductibles	Covered under Medicare Part B; copay & deductibles apply; patient must qualify
Services Provided in Skilled Nursing Facility	Available if resident is not accessing their skilled nursing home Part A benefit	Not available
Physician Services	Hospice physician 100% covered; Attending physician 80% of approved charges covered under Medicare Part B	Physician 80% of approved charges covered under Part B
Bereavement Services	Available prior to and up to 13 months after patient's death	Not available

Compare

the Medicare benefit for both types of services:

In every patient's life there is a time for home health services and as their illness progresses, a time for the specialized services offered by hospice. Both services are covered by Medicare. However, there are differences between the types of services each can offer.

Home health services are available to any patient with a skilled medical need requiring the intervention of a registered nurse or physical therapist. Home health care is provided by a nurse or therapist with other professionals providing care as ordered.

Hospice care is for patients who are facing an end-stage disease, with a life expectancy of six months or less should the disease run its natural course. Pain and symptom management, along with emotional and spiritual care, is provided by a team of experts: physicians, nurses, hospice aides, chaplains, social workers, and trained volunteers who all specialize in end-of-life care.

Hospice is the comprehensive choice for patients and families coping with an end-stage disease.