

You, your patient and the family will benefit from hospice services. As a patient declines, the need for medications, medical equipment and supplies increases. This can place a tremendous financial burden on a patient and family. Hospice can lighten this burden. Hospice also provides unique medical, psychosocial, spiritual and bereavement support for the patient and family. You play an important role in providing your patients choices for end-of-life care.

What About Medications?

Medications related to the terminal diagnosis and included in the plan of care are a part of the Medicare Hospice Benefit. Hospice is responsible for providing these medications.

As an extension of your care, the hospice nurse is aware of changes in the patient and the corresponding need for medication order changes. They can assess the patient and call you or the hospice physician for orders. Hospice will obtain the orders and teach the patient and family about the medications, including their indications and side effects.

In addition to the cost-savings for patients and families, the provision of medications can save the family time that can be spent with their loved ones.

What About Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies?

Durable medical equipment and supplies related to the terminal diagnosis and identified in the plan of care are a part of the Medicare Hospice Benefit. Hospice is responsible for providing these without a co-pay or deductible for the patient and family.

How Is Hospice Paid For?

Medicare covers 100% of hospice services, with no out-of-pocket expenses to the patient or family. Medicaid and most private insurers also cover hospice services.

Benefits

of Referring Your Patient to Hospice Earlier

Providing medications reduces the financial burden on the patient and family, thereby increasing patient and family satisfaction with your care

Intensive pain and symptom management which eliminates or reduces unnecessary hospitalizations/ ER visits

Medications, DME and supplies provided, making the patient more compliant to their treatment plan

Family support and education relieves caregiver stress and exhaustion which decreases demands on your time

Ability to benefit from a full range of programs and services, including 24-hour access to care, psychosocial programs, volunteer services and grief counseling

