

What services are available for America's home health care patients?

Medicare Home Health Benefit

The **Medicare home health benefit** covers skilled nursing care and therapy services provided to patients in their own residence. The patient must be under the care of a physician, meet the definition of "homebound," and be in need of skilled services on an intermittent basis. Patients receive home health care following an acute care hospital discharge or because they require certain rehabilitation services.

Services include care from highly skilled nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and medical social workers. Home health aides provide personal care services for patients also in need of skilled services.

Medicaid Home Health Benefit

The **Medicaid Home Health benefit** varies by state but is generally broader than the Medicare benefit and commonly provides a combination of highly-skilled medical care and personal care services. States must provide home health services and transportation to care.

Depending on the state in question, states can provide related services, including: pediatric care; physical, occupational and speech therapy; private duty nursing services; personal care; and case management.

Veterans Administration Home Health Care

There are several types of home health services available to Veterans:

Skilled Home Health Care (SHHC) Services, which are short-term services that include nursing care, therapy visits and social work support.

Home Based Primary Care is for Veterans with complex health needs, such as multiple chronic conditions. Care includes primary care visits in the patient's residence, case management services, and mental health services.

Homemaker and Home Health Aide Care is care provided to Veterans to assist them with activities of daily living.

"Home Care" Long-Term Care Provided at Home

"Home Care" is a broad term that encompasses all care provided to a person in their residence. Home care reflects Medicare- skilled professionals and their services, skilled or personal care through Medicaid, or care through private pay programs. Home care may also include social services offered through state Area Agencies on Aging, as well as care provided by Private Duty Nurses. In addition to a wide range of services, home care is provided to a diverse group of patients - children, the elderly, the disabled, and U.S. Veterans.

Ultimately, "home care" is an umbrella term used to describe the full spectrum of care, services and equipment provided in a patient's home through various local, state, federal, insurance and private pay options.

Skilled, Clinical Care

Skilled, Clinical Care & Social/Functional Support