

HOME HEALTH: MASSACHUSETTS

Home Health Outcomes and Met Quality Measures



MASSACHUSETTS home health care agencies provide high-quality, critical care to patients in their homes, helping those patients meet their goals and avoid rehospitalizations.

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-approved place of care, meet the definition of “homebound,” and be in need of skilled services on an intermittent basis. Patients often 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 if needed to support skilled nursing services.

For an aging population, home health offers the unique ability to provide care in a setting familiar to the patient while improving outcomes and providing excellent care to patients and their families.

How Often Home Health Team Met Quality Measures Related to Patient Care in 2018¹

	Checked patients for depression	Checked patients' risk of falling	For diabetic patients, got doctor's orders, gave and educated about foot care	Taught patients (or their family caregivers) about their drugs	Began care in timely manner	Determined whether patients received a flu shot for the current flu season	Determined whether patients received a pneumococcal vaccine (pneumonia shot)
STATE	97.9%	99.5%	97.2%	98.6%	94.0%	76.8%	80.3%
NATIONAL	97.7%	99.5%	97.6%	98.1%	94.1%	78.3%	81.2%

2018 Averages for Patient Outcomes while in Home Health Care¹

	Wounds improved or healed after operation	Got better at bathing	Had less pain when moving around	Breathing improved	Got better at walking or moving around	Got better at getting in and out of bed	Got better at taking drugs correctly by mouth	Had to be admitted to hospital	Urgent, unplanned care in ER - w/o being admitted to the hospital
STATE	92.3%	76.8%	78.6%	76.5%	75.8%	76.3%	67.4%	16.9%	12.6%
NATIONAL	91.0%	77.3%	77.9%	77.1%	74.8%	73.7%	65.8%	15.8%	13.0%

¹ Avalere Health LLC; Home Health Chartbook Data. October 2019. (Citing and analyzing from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare Home Health Compare, 2018)