



FAQs REGARDING HOME HEALTH

WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM HOME HEALTH CARE?

You or a family member may benefit from home care if you are:

- Recovering from a recent illness, surgery, or hospitalization
- Recently discharged from a nursing home or rehabilitation facility but need the assistance of a skilled clinician or home health aide for safety with bathing and dressing to support return to independent and safe living
- In need of education regarding your health problem and how to manage your disease effectively

WHO PROVIDES SKILLED CARE?

Skilled care means that the services being provided can only be performed safely and correctly by a licensed clinician such as a nurse, physical therapist, occupational or speech therapist.

WHO PAYS FOR HOME HEALTH CARE?

Medicare, commercial insurance, and HMOs typically cover certified home health care services when specific criteria are met. Home health care agencies will assist in determining your specific coverage and any co-pays.

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR HOME HEALTH ELIGIBILITY?

- The individual must require skilled, intermittent nursing care, physical therapy, speech-language pathology
- Or a continuing need for occupational therapy services
- A physician's order is required for home health care
- The individual must be homebound

WHAT DOES HOMEBOUND MEAN?

Homebound simply means that the individuals' condition requires a taxing effort for them to safely leave the home without assistance from others or assistive devices (e.g. canes, walkers, crutches, or wheelchairs). An individual may also be considered homebound if they have a medical restriction.

Individuals are still considered homebound if they leave the home as needed for medical treatments that cannot be provided in-home. Brief and occasional non-medical absences are allowed, such as going to church, the beauty shop, or special family events when caregiver assistance or assistive devices are required for safety.

IS DRIVING ALLOWED UNDER THE HOMEBOUND REQUIREMENTS?

Yes, if there is an absence of transportation assistance or other options and the individual requires a taxing effort to leave the home. If driving is a necessity, doing so should be infrequent and of short duration such as driving to a medical appointment, getting groceries or picking up medications.

WHERE WILL I RECEIVE HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES?

Home health care is provided to individuals in their place of residence which may include their home, a group home, assisted living center, or even a hotel.

WHAT TYPES OF DIAGNOSES ARE APPROPRIATE FOR HOME HEALTH CARE INTERVENTION?

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Recovery from illness or surgery
- Chronic conditions or injuries

In addition to providing medically necessary services for the treatment of the above conditions, home health care professionals act as a liaison between the individual, the individual's family, and doctor.

HOW OFTEN WILL I RECEIVE HOME HEALTH CARE VISITS?

Care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The frequency and level of care will vary based on need. The home health team works with the individual and their doctors to create a plan of care that adapts to unique needs and priorities. Home Health is intended for short periods, such as a few weeks; it is not ongoing. Home Health is provided just long enough to stabilize your health and teach you about managing your condition independently.

WILL MY DOCTOR STILL BE INVOLVED IN MY CARE?

Yes, your doctor works directly with the home health care team to plan the best care for you.

HOW DO I GET STARTED WITH HOME HEALTH CARE?

Contact Compassus at compassus.com/synergy or call us at 833-661-1394.