



Medicare Hospice Benefit What You Need to Know

The Medicare Hospice Benefit

- Comprehensive coverage for patients facing any life-threatening illness
- Services provided in the home or any home-like setting, including nursing homes and assisted living communities.
- Palliative care for comfort and relief from pain and other distressing symptoms
- A team approach by the hospice staff and your own physician
- Addresses physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Who is Eligible?

- Patients who are eligible for Medicare benefits
- Patients with life-threatening illness who seek comfort care, rather than curative treatments
- Patients whose physicians certify that life expectancy is limited to six months or less (if the illness follows its normal course)

Medical Services Covered by the Medicare Hospice Benefit

- Registered Nurses, including 24-hour on-call nursing services
- Social Workers, Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Home Health Aides
- Consultation by the Hospice Medical Director

Counseling and Support Services Covered by the Medicare Hospice Benefit

- Medical social services
- Pastoral counseling, Chaplain services if desired
- Trained volunteers
- Bereavement counseling and support for family caregivers for 13 months following the loss of a loved one.
- Medication, durable medical equipment and supplies related to hospice diagnosis and any other related condition(s)
- Consultation for physical, occupational or speech-language therapy, as needed

Additional Services Covered by Medicare Hospice Benefit

- Intervals of in-patient care for severe pain and symptom control
- Intervals of continuous nursing care during periods of medical crisis
- Intervals of respite care to relieve family caregivers

For more information, please call Samaritan at 1-800-229-8183