



MEDICARE HOSPICE LEVELS OF CARE

Hospice patients may require different intensities of care during the course of their final stages of their disease. The Medicare Hospice Benefit* affords patients, with a prognosis of less than six months, four levels of hospice care to meet their clinical needs: (see below.) Payment for each covers all aspects of the patient's care related to the terminal illness, including all services delivered by the Interdisciplinary team, medication, medical equipment and supplies. While hospice patients may be admitted at any level of care, the progression of their illness may require a change in their level of care.

♥ ROUTINE HOSPICE CARE (RHC)

RHC is the most common level of hospice care. With this type of care, an individual has elected to receive hospice care at their residence/home, which can include a private residence/home, assisted living facility or nursing facility.

CRISIS CARE

♥ GENERAL INPATIENT CARE (GIP)

GIP is provided for pain control or other acute symptom management that cannot feasibly be provided in any other setting. GIP begins when other efforts to manage symptoms have been ineffective. GIP can be provided in a Medicare certified hospital, hospice inpatient facility, or nursing facility that has registered nursing available 24 hours a day to provide direct patient care. It is the individual needs of the patient (not the location of care or caregiver breakdown) that determines if patient qualifies for GIP level of care. A patient who is actively dying is not, in and of itself, a reason for GIP.

CRISIS CARE

♥ CONTINUOUS HOME CARE (CHC)

CHC is care provided in the home between 8 and 24 hours a day to manage uncontrolled pain and other acute medical symptoms. CHC services must be predominately nursing care, supplemented with caregiver and hospice aide services and are intended to maintain the terminally ill patient at home during a pain or symptom crisis.

♥ INPATIENT RESPITE CARE

Inpatient Respite Care is available to provide temporary relief to the patient's primary caregiver. Respite care can be provided in a hospital, hospice facility, or a long-term care facility that has sufficient 24-hour nursing personnel present on all shifts to guarantee that patient's needs are met. Respite care is provided for a maximum of 5 consecutive days.

MOST COMMON

↓
LEAST COMMON

**For Commercial Insurance, refer to the carrier's policy for hospice coverage.*

