WHO PAYS FOR HOSPICE CARE?

Understanding coverage, costs, and what families may owe

THE SHORT ANSWER

For most Medicare patients, hospice care is covered by Medicare Part A.

If you receive hospice care from a Medicare-approved hospice and meet Medicare's hospice eligibility requirements, you generally pay nothing for covered hospice services. Medicare pays the hospice provider for the hospice benefit.

MEDICARE HOSPICE BENEFIT

WHAT MEDICARE PAYS

Medicare Part A covers hospice care when you qualify and elect the hospice benefit. Covered services are provided through the hospice's individualized plan of care.

WHAT YOU GENERALLY PAY

There is no deductible for covered hospice care. You may pay up to $5 per outpatient prescription for pain and symptom control, and 5% of the Medicare-approved amount for inpatient respite care.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

If you have Medicare Advantage, Original Medicare still pays for your hospice care. Your Medicare Advantage plan can continue to cover services for health problems unrelated to the terminal illness.

OTHER COVERAGE

Medigap or other supplemental coverage may help with certain Medicare cost sharing. Coverage depends on the policy and the service.

WHAT ABOUT MEDICAID?

Medicaid also covers hospice for eligible beneficiaries. In Texas, HHSC pays contracted hospice providers for covered Medicaid hospice services. For people who have both Medicare and Medicaid, Medicare is generally the primary payer for hospice services, with Medicaid paying according to its program rules.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Room and board is generally not covered by the Medicare hospice benefit when you live at home, in a nursing home, or assisted living.
- Hospital or emergency care related to the terminal illness should be arranged through the hospice team unless it is unrelated to the terminal illness.
- Your hospice provider should explain any items, services, or medications it determines are not covered by the hospice benefit.

Coverage rules can vary by insurance and situation. Ask the hospice team to review your specific benefits and expected costs.

OUR COMMITMENT
Compassionate Care. Fast Response. Strong Communication. Family-Centered Support.
We are dedicated to ensuring patients and families receive the highest quality hospice experience through timely admissions, physician collaboration, education, and responsive care throughout our service area.

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Serving our communities with compassion and care.