

Key Message and Tips for Beneficiaries: Hospice



Message

Hospice care is a benefit that may be covered under the Medicaid program. If you choose hospice it is important to understand your prognosis, eligibility for hospice care, and Medicaid program rules.

The goal of hospice is to manage your terminal illness and related conditions. Hospice does not include treatment to cure a terminal illness unless you are under age 21.[1] Some of the benefits include:

- Nursing care;
- Medical equipment;
- Drugs for symptom control and pain relief;
- Social worker services; and
- Hospice aide and homemaker services.[2]

TIPS

These tips will help you get the care you need at a difficult time. To be eligible for hospice you must:

- Be terminally ill as certified by a physician;[3]
- Elect to receive hospice care by completing and signing an election form;[4]
- Agree to care that will manage your symptoms and make you comfortable, but not to cure your illness unless you revoke the hospice benefit – then you can seek treatment;[5]
- Understand if you are under age 21 you may receive both hospice and treatment to cure your illness;[6] and
- Understand hospice benefits may be different in each State. Check with your State Medicaid agency about hospice benefits in your area.

For more information about programs and services in your area, visit <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-State/By-State.html> for a link to your State Medicaid agency.

For more information about Medicaid Program Integrity, visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Fraud-Prevention/Medicaid-Integrity-Education/edmic-landing.html> on the CMS Medicaid Program Integrity Education website.

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September 2015

1 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicaid.gov. Hospice Benefits. Retrieved July 27, 2015 from <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/benefits/hospice-benefits.html>

2 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2000, July 31). State Medicaid Manual. Chapter 4 § 4305. Hospice Services. Retrieved July 28, 2015, from <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Paper-Based-Manuals-Items/CMS021927.html>

3 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2000, July 31). State Medicaid Manual. Chapter 4 § 4305. Hospice Services. Retrieved July 28, 2015, from <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Paper-Based-Manuals-Items/CMS021927.html>

4 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2000, July 31). State Medicaid Manual. Chapter 4 § 4305. Hospice Services. Retrieved July 28, 2015, from <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Paper-Based-Manuals-Items/CMS021927.html>

5 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2000, July 31). State Medicaid Manual. Chapter 4 § 4305. Hospice Services. Retrieved July 28, 2015, from <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Paper-Based-Manuals-Items/CMS021927.html>

6 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act § 2302 Concurrent Care for Children. Retrieved July 28, 2015 <http://housedocs.house.gov/energycommerce/ppacacon.pdf>