



Because the end of life is part of living

Home Health and Hosparus

These guidelines will help identify how and when patients can benefit from both home health and hospice services. They are general guidelines only. If you think a patient could benefit from our services, please call.

When should I call to make a Hosparus referral?

- When a patient is expected to survive six months or less if the disease follows its normal course.
- When curative treatment is no longer an option or has been declined by a patient.
- A patient's primary need is for comfort care and symptom management.

What distinguishes Hosparus from typical home health services?

- Hosparus provides end-of-life education.
- Hosparus provides bereavement counseling for patients and families.
- Hosparus provides spiritual and caregiver support services (e.g., chaplain and respite care).
- Hosparus pays for medications and equipment related to hospice diagnosis that are included in the hospice plan of care.
- Hosparus does not require patients to be home bound.

Will Medicare cover home health and hospice in the home at the same time?

Yes, provided that:

- Documentation in both the home health and hospice medical records clearly shows that the terminal diagnosis is not related to the illness/injury for which home health care is necessary.
- Example: A woman in hospice care for end-stage heart disease trips over the family pet and breaks her hip. Her physician orders home-based physical therapy for the hip fracture that is unrelated to the hospice terminal diagnosis. Under these conditions, Medicare would cover both hospice and home health services in the home at the same time.

Does Hosparus ever discharge patients?

Hosparus discharges a patient if:

- The physician determines that the patient no longer has a life expectancy of six months or less because disease progression has slowed dramatically or is in remission.
- Patient moves to an area not served by Hosparus.
- Patient has decided to pursue curative care.
- Home is no longer safe for the patient or others who care for the patient.

What happens if patient is not appropriate for Hosparus services?

- If the patient is not appropriate, he/she will be referred to an appropriate service provider.

A non-profit hospice organization • www.hosparus.org

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HOSPARUS

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1-800-264-0521

- Palliative Care
- Home, Nursing Home Care
- Inpatient Services
- Physical, Emotional
& Spiritual Support
- Bereavement Counseling

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