

# Home Health Services

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0100.SCEX

Recent review date: 10/2024

Next review date: 07/2026

*First Choice Next reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. First Choice Next may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

*To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.*

## Policy Overview

This policy outlines guidelines for reimbursement of home health services, place of service (POS) 12.

## Exceptions

Home health care services rendered on the dates of inpatient admission and discharge may be reimbursed.

## Reimbursement Guidelines

Home health care services including, but not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and skilled nursing services. Prior authorization is required after any combination of six

home health care service visits are received to allow coverage for any additional home health care services. Home health care services are not reimbursable for POS 12 (home) during an inpatient stay. First Choice Next will cover certain services received in the home from a certified/licensed home health agency when ordered by a physician. Services must only be provided on a part-time, intermittent basis and cannot be solely for assisting with activities of daily living. Home health services are limited to one visit per day, per specialty. A nurse and a home health aide count as one specialty for this benefit. Please refer to the schedule of benefits for more information and any limitations that may apply.

### **Hospice Care**

Hospice care is a comprehensive program of care that addresses the physical, social, and spiritual needs of a terminally ill patient and provides support for the immediate family. Services will be covered when recommended by a physician and received from an appropriately licensed hospice agency or inpatient hospice program.

The following are not covered for at-home treatment or care under this policy's home health care benefit:

- Care not prescribed in the approved treatment plan
- Chemotherapy and radiation therapy
- Chronic condition care
- Dietary care
- Disposable supplies
- Durable medical equipment
- Homemaker services such as housekeeping and cooking
- Imaging services
- Inhalation therapy

### **Skilled nursing services**

Skilled nursing services are provided to a person in the home for the purpose of restoring and maintaining his or her maximal level of function and health. These services are rendered in lieu of hospitalization, confinement in an extended care facility, or going outside of the home for services. Skilled nursing services must be prescribed by a physician and be medically necessary for the member's illness or injury.

### **Physical, occupational and speech therapy**

First Choice Next may cover in-home therapy services depending on the member's needs. Skilled therapies are considered reimbursable when prescribed by a physician for homebound patients to improve, develop or restore physical functions lost due to illness or injury.

### **Home health care services**

A home health aide is a provider who assists a member with non-skilled care to meet activities of daily living, thereby maintaining the individual in his or her home environment. Services provided by home health aides may include:

- Personal care
- Assisting with a prescribed exercise regimen that supports skilled therapies but does not require the skills of a therapist.
- Assisting with activities of daily living
- Changing non-sterile dressings that do not require the skills of a licensed nurse
- Routine care of prosthetic and orthotic devices
- Supervising the individual's adherence to prescribed, self-administered medications and/or special diets
- Taking blood pressure and other health monitoring activities

Home health services may have limitations of services, visits and may require prior authorization. Refer to your provider manual and/or the following link for authorization requirements

<https://www.firstchoicenext.com/providers/prior-authorizations.aspx>.

## Definitions

### Home health care

Medical care delivered in the patient's home, when the patient is homebound while recovering from an illness, surgery or injury or has a chronic medical condition.

### Place of service (POS)

A two-digit code used on health care professional claims to indicate the setting in which a service was provided.

### Durable medical equipment (DME)

DME is equipment that can withstand repeated use (at least three years) and is used in the home for a medical reason when someone is sick or injured.

## Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10).
- III. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- V. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).

## Attachments

N/A

## Associated Policies

N/A

## Policy History

06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
04/2025	Revised preamble
10/2024	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by First Choice Next from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised preamble</li><li>• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table</li><li>• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li><li>• Added Associated Policies section</li></ul>