



**Covered Benefit: Hospice Services**

CMP Published: Yes  No

CPG Published: Yes  No

Definition: Hospice is end of life care that includes the following services; physician / nurse practitioner; skilled nursing, rehabilitative, social worker, chaplain and certified nursing assistant services provided in the home setting, inpatient hospice facility, skilled nursing facility (SNF), or hospital. Also included in the hospice benefit are durable medical equipment (DME) and medications related to the terminal illness or care, bereavement care, and respite care.

Hospice services are to be provided under the direction of a Neighborhood physician who certifies that the patient is in the terminal stages of illness and appropriate for hospice care.

Palliative care consists of continued, active, preventative, medical treatment with skilled nursing services and home health aide visits for patients with acute or chronic progressive illnesses. This is not part of the hospice benefit.

Neighborhood will authorize hospice services for an initial 90-day period. Recertification for an additional 90 day period and subsequent unlimited 60-day periods is required. The recertification process will require that the hospice provider resubmit the hospice request form, clinical notes documenting member's status, and services currently being provided.

Benefit Packages: RItE Care, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Substitute Care, Rhody Health Partners

Coverage Limitations:

- Hospice services are covered per CMS guidelines.
- Hospice services are an "All Inclusive" service package that requires prior authorization. Separate authorizations are not required for the included services.
- Hospice services as ordered by a plan physician are covered.
- Hospice services for RItE Care, Children with Special Needs and Substitute Care members are covered when provided in the home, hospice facility, SNF, or inpatient hospital.
- Hospice services for RHP members are covered when provided in the home or a hospice facility not a skilled nursing facility.
- Respite care must occur in an inpatient setting and cannot exceed a 5 day admission.



Exclusions:

- Treatments or services unrelated to the terminal illness are not covered as part of the hospice benefit. Such services may be covered per the member's benefit package.
- Extended Family Planning (EFP) members have a restricted benefit package which does not include hospice services.
- Room and board for long-term hospice care not covered for Rhody Health Plan members.

Coverage Includes:

- The hospice benefit coverage aligns with CMS guidelines.
- Hospice services in the home, individual hospice facility, skilled nursing facility (except RHP), and respite services are covered as part of the hospice benefit.

Episodes of care can occur across multiple settings; however, all hospice services are billed with the following place of service:

Hospice (POS 34)

Notes:

T2046 is out of plan for Rhody Health Partners members only.

Publication date:

09/01/10