



Long Term Care Division

Alabama Medicaid Agency
Long Term Care Division
Revised: March 2012

Home Health Care

What is Home Health Care?

- ◆ Skilled Nursing and Home Health Aide Services prescribed by a physician are provided to eligible recipients on a part-time or intermittent basis.
- ◆ These services cover preventive, restorative, and supportive care to persons who meet Medicaid Home Health Care criteria.



What is Home Health Care?

- ◆ Skilled nursing and personal care provided under the Home Health Program must be certified by licensed physicians and provided by Home Health Agencies under contract with Medicaid.



Target Population for Home Health Care

- ◆ Alabama Medicaid Home Health Care Services are available for all Medicaid eligible persons of any age, who meet the admission criteria on the basis of a reasonable expectation that a patient's medical, nursing, and social needs can adequately be met in the patient's place of residence.



Purpose of Providing Home Health Care

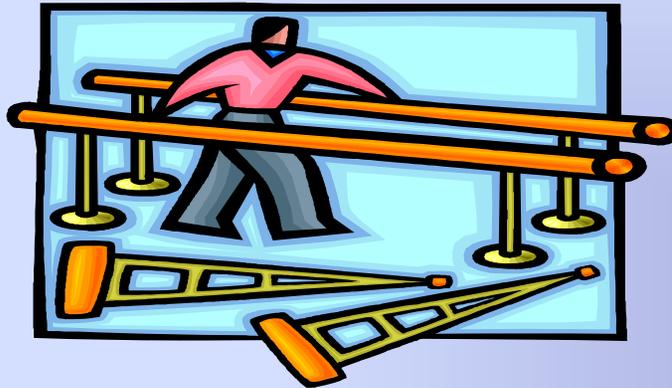


Home Health care is provided for the following reasons:

- ◆ To promote, maintain, or restore health to individuals and families in their place of residence; and
- ◆ To maximize the level of independence while minimizing the effects of disability and illness.

In-Home Therapies

- ◆ Physical, Speech, and Occupational Therapy in the home are limited to individuals under 21 years of age that are referred from an EPSDT screening.



Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for Home Health Care, a recipient must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ The recipient's illness, injury, or disability prevents the recipient from going to a physician's office, clinic, or other outpatient setting for required treatment; as a result, he or she would, in all probability, have to be admitted to a hospital or nursing home because of complications arising from lack of treatment;

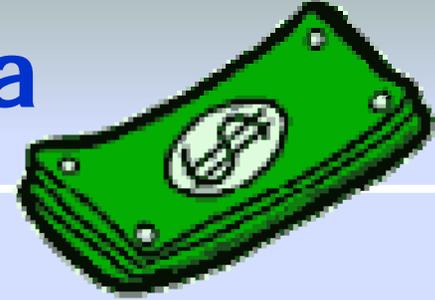
Eligibility Requirements...continued

- ◆ The recipient is unable to function without the aid of supportive devices, such as crutches, a cane, wheelchair or walker and requires the use of special transportation or the assistance of another person.

Home Health Coverage

- ◆ Medicaid in Alabama may cover up to 104 home health visits per year per beneficiary. Medicaid may authorize additional home health visits for beneficiaries under age 21 who have exhausted the home health benefit of 104 nursing visits per calendar year.

Financial Criteria



- ◆ For an individual to receive Home Health Benefits under the Medicaid program, they must have full Medicaid eligibility.



Payment Rates

- ◆ The payment rates for Home Health visits are \$27.00 per visit for private agencies.
- ◆ Home Health visits provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health are paid at cost.

Covered Services

- ◆ If ordered by the patient's physician, and authorized by Medicaid, a registered nurse employed by a certified home health agency can provide part-time or intermittent nursing services to a patient.

Covered Services...continued



- ◆ The registered nurse is responsible for a nursing care plan, which is made in accordance with the physician's written plan of care.
- ◆ Restorative, preventive, maintenance, and supportive services are covered.

Covered Services...continued



Licensed Practical Nurse Services

- ◆ If ordered by a patient's physician, a licensed practical nurse, supervised by a registered nurse, employed by a participating Home Health Agency, can provide intermittent or part-time nursing services to the patient when assignment is made by the registered nurse.
- ◆ LPN services are assigned and provided in accordance with existing State Law.

Covered Services...continued

Home Health Aide/Orderly Services

- ◆ A Home Health Aide/Orderly can provide personal care services as specified in the physician's plan of treatment.
- ◆ These services can be provided on a part-time basis only when they are supervised by the nurse who is responsible for the care of the patient and services are authorized by Medicaid.

Additional Information

If you have further questions regarding Alabama Medicaid Agency Long Term Care Programs, please contact:

Mattie Jackson, Program Manager, LTC Program Management Unit, 334-353-4361.