

Medical Policy: Home Care Services (Commercial)



POLICY NUMBER	LAST REVIEW DATE	APPROVED BY
M20190027	08/09/2024	MPC (Medical Policy Committee)

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS MEDICAL POLICY:

Property of ConnectiCare, Inc. All rights reserved. The treating physician or primary care provider must submit to ConnectiCare, Inc. the clinical evidence that the patient meets the criteria for the treatment or surgical procedure. Without this documentation and information, ConnectiCare will not be able to properly review the request for prior authorization. This clinical policy is not intended to pre-empt the judgment of the reviewing medical director or dictate to health care providers how to practice medicine. Health care providers are expected to exercise their medical judgment in rendering appropriate care. The clinical review criteria expressed below reflects how ConnectiCare determines whether certain services or supplies are medically necessary. ConnectiCare established the clinical review criteria based upon a review of currently available clinical information (including clinical outcome studies in the peer-reviewed published medical literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors).

ConnectiCare, Inc. expressly reserves the right to revise these conclusions as clinical information changes, and welcomes further relevant information. Identification of selected brand names of devices, tests and procedures in a medical coverage policy is for reference only and is not an endorsement of any one device, test or procedure over another. Each benefit plan defines which services are covered. The conclusion that a particular service or supply is medically necessary does not constitute a representation or warranty that this service or supply is covered and/or paid for by ConnectiCare, as some plans exclude coverage for services or supplies that ConnectiCare considers medically necessary. If there is a discrepancy between this guideline and a member's benefits plan, the benefits plan will govern. In addition, coverage may be mandated by applicable legal requirements of the State of CT and/or the Federal Government. Coverage may also differ for our Medicare members based on any applicable Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage statements including National Coverage Determinations (NCD), Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and/or Local Medical Review Policies (LMRP). All coding and web site links are accurate at time of publication.

Guideline

Home health services are covered if:

- The services are Medically Necessary as determined by evidence-based criteria and provided by a licensed Home Health Agency
- Home health care is ordered by a physician and approved by us
- We determine that Hospitalization or admission to a Skilled Nursing Facility would otherwise be required
- The Member is diagnosed as terminally ill and his/her life expectancy is six months or less

Homecare services must be medical and therapeutic health services provided in the Member's home, including:

- Nursing care by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse
- Social services by a Masters-prepared social worker provided to, or on behalf of, a terminally ill Member
- Physical, occupational or speech therapy
- Hospice care for a terminally ill patient (i.e., having a life expectancy of six months or less)
- Certain medical supplies, medications and laboratory services.

Limitation/Exclusions

- There is no coverage for:
- Custodial Care
 - Convalescent care
 - Domiciliary care
 - Rest home care, or
 - Home health aide care that is not patient care of a medical or therapeutic nature.

References

1. 2024 ConnectiCare Insurance Company, Inc. Membership Agreement

Revision history

DATE	REVISION
11/16/2021	Removed note re-directing users to Care Centrix
06/12/2020	Annual review. No changes made to policy
05/2019	Reformatted and reorganized policy, transferred content to new template with new Medical Policy Number
11/07/07, 10/29/08, 04/21/10, 05/04/11, 05/16/12, 05/01/13, 05/07/14, 05/06/15, 07/06/16, 5/1/2019	