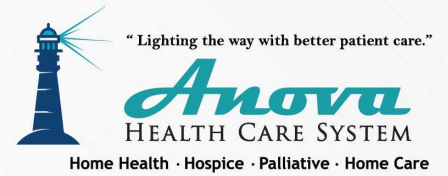


Hospice vs. Home Health vs. Palliative Care



Within post-acute care, there are many special services made to help and comfort people with certain medical needs. Three important types of care that often mix and connect are hospice care, home health care, and palliative care. While these services all aim to improve life quality for sick people, they are different in their goals, who can use them, what benefits are included, and how long they last.

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

	HOME HEALTH	PALLIATIVE CARE*	HOSPICE
What is..?	Comprehensive healthcare service provided in a patient's home environment, focusing on maintaining or improving health through skilled need services, especially useful for patients recovering from illness or surgery, or managing chronic conditions.	Specific medical approach that can be introduced at any point during a serious illness, irrespective of life expectancy, with a comprehensive goal of managing physical symptoms to enhance a patient's quality of life	Specialized form of healthcare conceived for patients with terminal illnesses, typically with a prognosis of six months or less to live, aiming to deliver not only pain management and physical comfort but also emotional support
Eligibility Criteria	Medically necessary care at home prescribed by a physician	Serious illness, with a skilled need, to manage symptoms and improve quality of life	Terminal illness with a prognosis of six months or less
Duration	Varies based on medical necessity and prescribed treatment plan	Varies based on individual skilled nursing needs and goals of care	Initial 90-day Benefit Period which can be extended indefinitely based on continuing terminal prognosis
Insurance	Insurance Dependent	Insurance Dependent	Typically covered under Hospice Benefit of Medicare
Home Health CNA/Aide	✓ If ordered by Physician	✓ If ordered by Physician	✓ Available as part of Hospice Team
Social Worker	✓ If ordered by Physician	✓ If ordered by Physician	✓ Available as part of Hospice Team
Chaplain	✗ Not available	✗ Not available	✓ Available as part of Hospice Team
Volunteers	✗ Not available	✗ Not available	✓ Available as part of Hospice Team
Bereavement Support	✗ Not available	✗ Not available	✓ Part of Hospice Benefit
Comfort Medications	✗ Not Included within Home Health Benefit. Must be billed separately (Insurance Dependent)	✗ Not Included within Home Health Benefit. Must be billed separately (Insurance Dependent)	✓ Part of Hospice Benefit
Medical Equipment	✗ Not Included within Home Health Benefit. Must be billed separately (Insurance Dependent)	✗ Not Included within Home Health Benefit. Must be billed separately (Insurance Dependent)	✓ Part of Hospice Benefit
24-Hour Skilled Nursing Care	✗ Only available via Private Pay	✗ Only available via Private Pay	✓ Must meet certain medical/symptom criteria as defined by CMS
Location of Care	Home or Assisted Living Facility	Home or Assisted Living Facility	Home, Assisted Living Facility, Skilled Nursing Home, Inpatient Hospital, Long-Term Care Facility,