

Skilled Home Healthcare Services

Home healthcare agencies provide services to nearly **3.5 million Medicare beneficiaries** who are homebound and require skilled care to treat illnesses related to acute, chronic or rehabilitative needs. Medical care that was once offered only in a hospital or a physician's office can now be safely and effectively provided in a patient's home by skilled clinicians. Data show that skilled home healthcare is less expensive, but just as clinically effective, as care provided in an inpatient healthcare facility.

Skilled Care At Home

- Cardiac & Pulmonary Care
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Intravenous (IV) Therapy
- Wound Care
- Pain Management
- Chronic Disease Care
- Medication Management

"All Americans – including people with disabilities and seniors – should be able to live at home with the supports they need, participating in communities that value their contributions – rather than in nursing homes or other institutions."

– Secretary Kathleen Sebelius – April 16, 2012

COST EFFECTIVE	<p>Home healthcare can reduce healthcare costs by managing disease and preventing hospitalizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare saves \$5,411 per patient when home healthcare is used as the first post-acute care setting for a hip fracture patient.¹ • The Veterans Administration reduced health spending by 24% using in-home care.² • Home health helps prevent avoidable hospital readmissions through better care transitions and effective management of chronic conditions.³
CLINICALLY ADVANCED	<p>Skilled home healthcare effectively manages chronic conditions and provides post-acute care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2010, more than 500,000 medical professionals, including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, home healthcare aides, and other practitioners provided skilled home healthcare to patients.⁴ • Home healthcare helps patients avoid the inherent health risks of hospitalization including infection, delirium, depression, infection and functional decline.
PATIENT PREFERRED	<p>Home healthcare allows patients to receive care with dignity in the comfort of home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 90 PERCENT of American seniors say they want to age in place and remain in their home.⁵ • AARP: "the vast majority of people over 50...want to live in their homes as long as possible."⁶ In the absence of home-based care, many seniors will have no choice but to receive care in institutional settings. • In the absence of home-based care, many seniors will have no choice but to receive care in institutional settings.

1. Clinically Appropriate and Cost Effective Placement Project. *Creating and Benchmarking Episodes: Baseline Statistics of Episode Frequency and Patient Diagnoses*. April 2012.

2. EDES, Thomas MD, MS. *Impact of VA Home Based Primary Care Access, Quality and Cost*. July 22, 2011.

3. Clinically Appropriate and Cost Effective Placement Project. *Baseline Statistics of Patient Pathways by Episode Type for Select MS-DRGs and Chronic Conditions*. May 2012.

4. Medicare Payment Advisory Commission: *Home Health Services*. In Report to Congress: Medicare Payment Policy March 2012.

5. Clarity/Prince Market Research 2007 Aging in Place Study. Retrieved from <http://www.marketingcharts.com/direct/seniors-fear-loss-of-independence-nursing-homes-more-than-death-2343/clarity-aging-in-place-importance-living-independently-seniors.jpg>

6. Nancy LeMond. AARP Executive Vice President