

# MEDICARE FUNDED HOME CARE

Medicare-covered services are recommended as the first option for home care.

## Step 1: Check Eligibility

Medicare may cover home health care if:

- **Homebound Status:** The individual has difficulty leaving home without assistance
- **Skilled Care Need:** The Individual needs part time or intermittent skilled nursing, therapy, or related services

## Step 2: Develop a Care Plan

- **Certified Care Plan:** Medical provider approves of a plan of care
- **Qualified Provider:** Services are provided by a Medicare-certified home health agency

## Step 3: Initiate Home Care Services

When eligible, Medicare covers both skilled care and assistance from a Home Health Care Aide. Coverage is typically limited in scope. For any other insurances, contact your provider.

## Step 4: Explore Additional Options

Medicare guidelines are very specific which can make obtaining coverage for some services more difficult. If you do not qualify, there are additional options that may assist you.

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THESE SERVICES ARE FUNDED  
IN PART BY THE ERIE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING,  
THE NYS OFFICE FOR THE  
AGING, AND THE  
ADMINISTRATION ON AGING



# UNDERSTANDING HOME CARE OPTIONS



**ERIE COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING**  
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# HEMOCARE SERVICES

## WHAT IS HOME CARE?

Home care helps someone at home with their health and daily needs ensuring they can live safely and independently in their home.

## WHEN IS HOME CARE NEEDED?

An individual might need home care if they are having trouble with personal care or household tasks. It can be short-term after an illness or injury or long-term for ongoing health issues.

## HOW TO START

**Step 1:** Talk to your medical provider. They can request an in-home evaluation by a certified home health agency. If you're eligible, Medicare or other private insurance may cover nursing, therapy, or personal care services for short-term recovery.

**Step 2:** If assistance is required beyond short-term care services, long-term home care options should be considered.

## SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Navigating home care options can feel overwhelming. Erie County Department for the Aging is committed to assisting you and your family.



## VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE

The VA has benefits that add monthly payments to their pension for qualified Veterans and their survivors.

- **Aid and Attendance:** For those needing assistance with daily living activities
- **Housebound:** For those who are unable to leave home without assistance.

**Erie County Veteran's Services**  
(716)858-6363 or [erie.gov/veterans](http://erie.gov/veterans)  
or  
**NY State Division of Veteran's Affairs**  
888-838-7697

## ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

We as well as local agencies provide case management services to coordinate non-medical home care including housekeeping and personal care services.

To qualify, the individual must be 60 years or older, have unmet care needs, and not be eligible for similar assistance from other sources. Costs may be income-based. For more information contact our NY Connects line 716-858-8526.

## HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

**Hospice:** Designed for individuals with serious illnesses who are no longer pursuing curative treatments and may be nearing the end of life.

**Palliative Care:** Focused on managing symptoms and improving quality of life for those with ongoing or progressive conditions who continue treatment.

For more information:  
716-686-8077 | [hospicebuffalo.com](http://hospicebuffalo.com)

# MEDICAID BASED HOME CARE

**Medicaid offers different long-term home care programs to assist with things like personal care, housekeeping, and other daily needs. These services are usually for people who need ongoing assistance over an extended period.**

## Key programs:

### Managed Long Term Care (MLTC):

- For people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. MLTC may cover a home aide, meal delivery, emergency alert devices, social day programs, and more.

### Medicaid Managed Care Plan:

- For people who have Medicaid only. These plans often include personal aide services and may cover emergency alert systems.

### Community Alternative System Agency (CASA):

- For those eligible for Medicaid and Medicare who don't qualify for MLTC. CASA helps mostly with light housekeeping and basic support services.

### Nursing Home Transition & Diversion / TBI Waiver:

- Provides personal care plus additional services for those recovering from a traumatic brain injury or transitioning from nursing home care.

## HOW TO START:

New York Independent Assessment - 855-222-8350 | [ny.independentassessor.com](http://ny.independentassessor.com)

TBI or Nursing Home Transition Programs:  
716-408-3120 | [headwayofwny.org](http://headwayofwny.org)