

## Medicare Funded Home Care

Medicare-covered services should be the **first option** explored by those on Medicare who also need Home Care services.

Unfortunately, many seniors and their families are under the false impression that Medicare will unconditionally pay for home care.

The fact is, Medicare has very specific guidelines for who is eligible for Home Care.

A person qualifies for Medicare coverage of home health care only if all the following conditions are met:

- ◆ Homebound (unable to leave the home without assistance)
- ◆ Has a physician certified plan of care for home care
- ◆ Needs include either skilled therapy or intermittent skilled nursing nurses
- ◆ The care is provided by a Medicare Certified Home Health Agency.

If an individual meets all the above criteria, they may be able to receive a Home Health Care Aide to assist with daily activities.

You may qualify for Home Care through your Medical Dual Advantage Plan. Call your plan for more information.

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### Understanding Home Care Options

Information about home care is complex and often difficult to understand. If you would like to talk with someone about the information in this handout, call **Erie County Department of Senior Services** (716) 858-8526.



**NY Connects**  
Your Link to Long Term  
Services and Supports

of ERIE COUNTY

(800) 342-9871 (716) 858-8526



**Mark C. Poloncarz**  
County Executive  
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Commissioner

These services are funded in part by the Erie County Department of Senior Services, the NYS Office for the Aging, and the Administration on Aging.

## Erie County Senior Services / NY Connects



95 Franklin St.  
13th Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 858-8526

e-mail: [seniorinfo@erie.gov](mailto:seniorinfo@erie.gov)  
[www2.erie.gov/seniorservices](http://www2.erie.gov/seniorservices)

Home care refers to services that may be available to help people remain independent in their own homes.

Care may be for a short duration or long term, continuing for months or years.

## Veterans Benefits

Certain veterans or their spouses may be eligible for home care services through the Veterans' Administration.

Call **VA WNY Healthcare System**  
(716) 834-9200

OR

**Erie County Veteran's Services**  
<http://www2.erie.gov/veterans/>  
(716) 858-6363

## EISEP Funding

**The Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)** provides only non-medical home care including homemaker/ personal care, including consumer directed care, and respite home or day care—for those 60 and older who have unmet needs. Case Management services are an essential part of the program, helping clients and their families assess needs and develop a plan of care.

Local Senior Service offices conduct assessments for this funding.



## Medicaid Funded Home Care

Medicaid has a variety of long term home care options to help with personal care and housekeeping needs. Medicaid home care services are generally for people who will need ongoing help over many months or years. There is specific criteria and pre-screening to be completed by each plan to determine eligibility. The plan you enroll in may be specific to what home care or long term care needs you have.

- **Managed Long Term Care Program (MLTC)**  
Generally for recipients who have both Medicaid and Medicare with a personal care need. May be able to provide additional services such as a social day program, delivered meals, emergency button, and home modifications if qualified. Medicaid only recipients may apply if they need social day, delivered meals, and/or home modifications in addition to personal care assistance. Contact 1-855-222-8350 to schedule a Conflict Free evaluation to determine eligibility.

Additional resources: <https://www.nymedicaidchoice.com/ask/do-i-qualify-managed-long-term-care>

- **Medicaid Managed Care Plan**  
Personal care and/or housekeeping services can be requested under current Medicaid Managed Care Plan. Generally for Medicaid recipients that do not have Medicare.
- **NHTD or TBI Waiver (Nursing Home Transition & Diversion Program or Traumatic Brain Injury)**  
Provides personal care as well as a variety of other services for people that have suffered a traumatic brain injury, wish to avoid nursing home placement, or transition out of a nursing home. Additional information can be obtained by contacting (716) 408-3120 or at [www.headwayofwny.org/](http://www.headwayofwny.org/)
- **Community Alternative System Agency (CASA)**  
Generally for Medicaid recipients that need only house-keeping assistance. Contact (716) 858-2323 to make a referral.  
<http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices/index.php?q=casa-community-alternative-systems-agency>

## Other Home Care Resources

**Hospice** is for people with life-limiting illness who are no longer receiving curative treatments and have an expected prognosis.

[HospiceBuffalo.com](http://HospiceBuffalo.com) or call (716) 686-8077

**Palliative Care** is for people with chronic or progressive illness who may still be receiving curative treatments — it does not require a limited prognosis.

[HospiceBuffalo.com/services/palliative-care-buffalo](http://HospiceBuffalo.com/services/palliative-care-buffalo)  
or call (716) 686-8077

**Certified Home Health Agencies (CHHA)** provide nursing, Home Health Aide services (help with daily living activities such as dressing, walking, etc.), physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work and nutritional services. They are able to bill Medicare if the patient meets Medicare home care eligibility criteria.

**Licensed Home Care Services Agencies** offer all levels of nursing care, therapies, and Personal Care Aides (who help with personal care and other daily living activities) to clients who pay privately or have private insurance coverage.

In-Home Health Care service is a very competitive market in Erie County. Agencies are listed in the Yellow Pages of the phone book under “Nurses” or “Home Health Services.” Shop around to compare services and availability as well as cost before deciding which agency can best meet your needs.