

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 home health care coverage 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.

If you do not have Medicare, your health insurance may cover these services.

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 brochure, call

NY Connects
(716) 858-8526.



NEW
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NY Connects

Your Link to Long Term
Services and Supports

of ERIE COUNTY

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



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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.

Understanding Home Care Options



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(716) 858-8526

e-mail: seniorinfo@erie.gov
www3.erie.gov/seniorservices

HOME CARE: WHAT IS IT?

Home care is care or services that assists you within your home. Home care may include a visiting nurse, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, a speech therapist, and/or personal care aide.

WHEN IS HOME CARE NEEDED?

Home care may be needed if you or a loved one are having difficulty managing self-care and completing household tasks. Home care may be temporary (weeks to months) to help a person recovering from an illness or surgery. It can also be long term (months to years) if a person will need ongoing assistance due to a progressive condition.

HOW DO I OBTAIN HOME CARE?

STEP 1– Talk to your physician. Your physician can order an in-home evaluation through a certified home health agency to provide nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and/or intermittent personal care aide service. If eligible, this service can be covered under your Medicare or other health insurance provider. This home care is generally short-term and in place to help you recover or regain abilities after an illness or injury.

STEP 2– Once you have received services under a certified home health agency, if assistance with personal care and household tasks are still needed, then it will be time to explore additional options.



ADDITIONAL HOME CARE OPTIONS

Veteran's Aid and Attendance

Veteran's Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits provide monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified Veterans and survivors. This benefit is for eligible veterans that are homebound or need help with daily activities.

Erie County Veteran's Services

<https://www3.erie.gov/veterans/>

(716) 858-6363

or

Call NY State Division of Veteran's Affairs

1-888-838-7697

Erie County Senior Services

Erie County Department of Senior Services and their local partners can have a Case Manager assess you or a loved one for home care services. The home care services provided are non-medical, including housekeeping and/or personal care. These services include consumer directed care, where you can choose who you would like to be your aide, or an aide can be provided through a local home care agency. You must have unmet needs and be 60 years of age or older. This service is based on income and may be subject to a cost share.

Call NY Connects for more information

(716)858-8526

Hospice and Palliative Care

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

HospiceBuffalo.com or call (716) 686-8077

Palliative Care-for people with chronic or progressive illness who may still be receiving curative treatments.

[https://www.hospicebuffalo.com/our-](https://www.hospicebuffalo.com/our-services/palliative-care)

services/palliative-care

or call (716) 686-8077

ADDITIONAL HOME CARE OPTIONS

Medicaid Based 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.

Types of plans include:

•**Managed Long Term Care (MLTC)**

Generally for recipients of both Medicare and Medicaid. In addition to aide service, MLTC's may fund home delivered meals, emergency buttons, social or medical day programs, and a variety of other supportive services.

•**Medicaid Managed Care Plan**

Recipients of Medicaid, who do not have Medicare, are usually enrolled in a Managed Care Plan. In addition to aide service, this plan may cover emergency buttons.

•**Community Alternative System Agency (CASA)**

Generally for Medicaid and Medicare recipients that are denied MLTC that only need housekeeping type of assistance.

To begin, a New York Independent Assessment is required to determine if you are qualified for home care. Contact: 855-222-8350 to schedule an evaluation.

Medicaid Nursing Home Transition & Diversion or Traumatic Brain Injury (NHTD or TBI Waiver)

Provides personal care as well as a variety of other services for people that have suffered a traumatic brain injury, wishing to avoid nursing home placement or are transitioning out of a nursing home.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting (716) 408-3120 or at www.headwayofwny.org