

Who Pays for Hospice and Palliative Care Services?

Many of the treatments intended to provide comfort and relief of symptoms while a patient is being treated for an illness in the hospital are paid for as part of the regular insurance coverage for hospital stays. Your hospital social worker or case manager can help you determine if there are reasons why this general rule would not apply to specific treatments.

When a patient enrolls in a hospice program, a special type of coverage is available. Hospice services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and many HMOs and private insurers. The federal Medicare and Medicaid programs cover 100% of the cost of hospice services for those who qualify. Other health insurers will usually have a similar benefit, but might not cover all costs. Your social worker, case manager, a hospice representative or your employer's benefits office can help you get information about your specific coverage and any costs you might have to pay.