

Skilled Home Health Care



What is Skilled Home Health Care?

Skilled Home Health is health care services that can be provided to Veterans if they live far away from VA. The care is delivered by a community-based home health agency that has a contract with VA.

The program is for Veterans who need skilled services such as: skilled nursing, case management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care, or IV antibiotics.

Skilled Home Health Care can be used in combination with other Home and Community Based Services.

Am I eligible for Skilled Home Health Care?

Since **Skilled Home Health Care** is part of the VHA Standard Medical Benefits Package, all *enrolled Veterans* are eligible **IF they meet the clinical need for the service. Services may vary by locations.**

A copay for Skilled Home Health Care may be charged based on your VA service-connected disability status and financial information. Contact your VA social worker/case manager to complete the *Application for Extended Care Benefits* (VA Form 10-10EC) to learn the amount of your copay.

What services can I get?

If you are eligible for Skilled Home Health, based on your needs you may receive:

- Nursing care (such as wound care or catheter care)
- Therapy visits for physical, occupational or speech therapy
- Patient education (about managing your medicines or illness)
- IV antibiotics or home infusion
- A home safety evaluation
- Social work support

How do I decide if it is right for me?

You can use a **Shared Decision Making Worksheet** to help you figure out what home care services or long term care services may best meet your needs now or in the future.

There's also a **Caregiver Self-Assessment**. It can help your caregiver identify their own needs and decide how much support they can offer to you. Having this

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information from your caregiver, along with the involvement of your care team and social worker, will help you reach short-term and long-term care decisions.

Ask your social worker for these Worksheets or download copies from the **Shared Decision Making** section at www.va.gov/Geriatrics.

If Skilled Home Health seems right for you, talk with your social worker about home health agencies in your area.



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