

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 12
TITLE: HOME CARE

AUTHORITY: PL 104-204; 38 USC 1724; 38 CFR 17.35

I. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

99341-99350

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Home care consists of skilled medical care, rehabilitative care, and health care related services furnished to an individual in the individual's home, nursing home, assisted living facilities or other place of residence.

B. Homemaker services consist of services that are necessary for the maintenance of the patient in the home. Services may include housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, grocery shopping, escorting the patient to appointments, and assuring patient safety.

C. Companion services consists of shopping, meal preparation, light housekeeping, medication management, financial management, mobility (ability to leave home), and doing the laundry.

D. Adult day care consists of a therapeutically oriented outpatient day program that provides health maintenance and rehabilitative services to frail elderly persons in a congregate setting. Adult day care is provided in a protective setting during part of a day, but less than 24-hour care.

E. Personal attendant services may include assistance with activities of daily living, aid in ambulation or transfers, active and passive exercises, assistance with medical equipment, and routine health monitoring. Services may also include specific household tasks to maintain a safe environment in areas of the home used by the patient.

F. Nursing home care accommodates convalescents or other persons who are not in need of hospital care and who do not require skilled nursing care or rehabilitative services.

III. POLICY

A. Home care is covered when provided by an authorized health care provider for the diagnosis or treatment of a covered condition for veterans who are homebound or whose condition is such that home care is indicated. The level of service is based on the:

1. approach and detail of the medical history,
2. extent of the examination,
3. complexity of the decision making process, and
4. severity of the presenting problem.

B. Services of a home health care provider or aide are covered when:

1. the medical services are provided in the patient's place of residence,
2. are medically necessary,
3. prescribed by a physician, and
4. the purpose is not solely adult daily living services.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A treatment plan for home care must be developed by a licensed nurse and signed by a physician. The treatment plan will be reviewed for medical necessity.

V. EXCLUSIONS

- A. Homemaker services.
- B. Companion services.
- C. Adult day care.
- D. Personal attendant.
- E. Nursing homes.

END OF POLICY