

**2026 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - Standard and Basic Option****Section 5. Benefits****Section 5(c). Services Provided by a Hospital or Other Facility, and Ambulance Services****Hospice Care**

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**Note:** The calendar year deductible applies to almost all benefits in this Section. We say "(No deductible)" when it does not apply.

**Benefit Description****Hospice Care**

**Hospice care** is an integrated set of services and supplies designed to provide palliative and supportive care to members with a projected life expectancy of six months or less due to a terminal medical condition, as certified by the member's primary care provider or specialist.

**Standard Option - You Pay**

See the following

**Basic Option - You Pay**

See the following

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**Benefit Description****Pre-Hospice Enrollment Benefits****Prior approval is not required.**

Before home hospice care begins, members may be evaluated by a physician to determine if home hospice care is appropriate. We provide benefits for pre-enrollment visits when provided by a physician who is employed by the home hospice agency and when billed by the agency employing the physician. The pre-enrollment visit includes services such as:

- Evaluating the member's need for pain and/or symptom management; and
- Counseling regarding hospice and other care options

**Standard Option - You Pay**

Nothing (no deductible)

**Basic Option - You Pay**Nothing

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All hospice services must be billed by an agency licensed as a hospice provider. Please check with your Local Plan, and/or visit [www.fepblue.org/provider](http://www.fepblue.org/provider) to use our National Doctor & Hospital Finder, for listings of Preferred hospice providers.

Note: If Medicare Part A is the primary payor for the member's hospice care, our benefits will be limited to those services described here.

**Members with a terminal medical condition (or those acting on behalf of the member) are encouraged to contact the Case Management Department at their Local Plan for information about hospice services and Preferred hospice providers.**

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**Benefit Description****Covered services**

We provide benefits for the hospice services listed below:

- Advanced care planning (see Section 10)
- Dietary counseling
- Durable medical equipment rental
- Medical social services
- Medical supplies
- Nursing care
- Oxygen therapy
- Periodic physician visits
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy related to the terminal medical condition
- Prescription drugs and medications
- Services of home health aides (certified or licensed, if the state requires it, and provided by the home hospice agency)

**Standard Option - You Pay**

See next page

**Basic Option - You Pay**

See next page

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**Benefit Description****Traditional Home Hospice Care**

Periodic visits to the member's home for the management of the terminal medical condition and to provide limited patient care in the home.

**Standard Option - You Pay**

Preferred facilities: Nothing (no deductible)

Member/Non-member facilities: \$450 copayment per episode (no deductible)

**Basic Option - You Pay**

Preferred facilities: Nothing

Member/Non-member facilities: You pay all charges

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**Benefit Description****Continuous Home Hospice Care**

Services provided in the home during a period of crisis, such as frequent medication adjustments to control symptoms or to manage a significant change in the member's condition, requiring a minimum of 8 hours of care during each 24-hour period by a registered nurse (R.N.) or licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.).

**Standard Option - You Pay**

Preferred facilities: Nothing (no deductible)

Member facilities: \$450 per episode copayment (no deductible)

Non-member facilities: \$450 per episode copayment, plus 35% of the Plan allowance (no deductible), and any remaining balance after our payment

**Basic Option - You Pay**

Preferred facilities: Nothing

Member/Non-member facilities: You pay all charges

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**Benefit Description****Inpatient Hospice Care**

Benefits are available for inpatient hospice care when provided by a facility that is licensed as an inpatient hospice facility and when:

- Inpatient services are necessary to control pain and/or manage the member's symptoms;
- Death is imminent; or
- Inpatient services are necessary to provide an interval of relief (respite) to the caregiver

Note: Benefits are provided for up to 30 consecutive days in a facility licensed as an inpatient hospice facility.

**Standard Option - You Pay**

Preferred facilities: Nothing (no deductible)

Member facilities: \$450 per admission copayment, plus 35% of the Plan allowance (no deductible)

Non-member facilities: \$450 per admission copayment, plus 35% of the Plan allowance (no deductible), and any remaining balance after our payment

**Basic Option - You Pay**

Preferred facilities: Nothing

Member/Non-member facilities: You pay all charges

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**Benefit Description**

*Not covered:*

- *Advanced care planning, except when provided as part of a covered hospice care treatment plan*
- *Homemaker services*

**Standard Option - You Pay**

*All charges*

**Basic Option - You Pay**

*All charges*