

Hospice

When a cure is no longer possible, hospice services provide medical, nursing, and emotional care. At the center of the hospice philosophy is respect for the decisions of each patient and family member. Hospice care is provided by a coordinated team of professionals that that may include a physician, nurse, home health aid, bereavement counselor, and social worker.

Hospice services may need prior-authorization by Regence BlueShield's care coordinators for medical necessity. To confirm medical necessity, contact a Regence BlueShield care coordinator at **1-800-367-2766**.

Billing Guidelines

We have listed the current revenue codes and the services they include to assist you with your claims submission. The revenue codes are subject to change.

Revenue Code	Description
651	<p>Routine Home Care (per diem) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All visits by nurses, chaplains, MSW's and HHA volunteers • 24 hour on-call medical management • All medicine pertaining to terminal illness, including pain management • Medical equipment and supplies • Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy • Dietary counseling • Grief counseling with member and family
652	<p>Continuous Home Care (per hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member needs at least 8 hours of skilled nursing care at home • The caregiver cannot cope or when member needs intensive short-term care
655	<p>Inpatient Respite Care (per diem)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member is in a SNF.
656	<p>Inpatient Hospice Care (per diem)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The member is hospitalized for pain control.
659	<p>In-Home Respite Care (per hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hourly non-skilled care provided to member when respite is needed for the caregiver

Hospice

Services Not Included in Hospice Care

The following services are *not included*. They should be billed separately by the performing provider:

- Physician services
- Drugs not related to the terminal illness
- Chemotherapy and radiation (other than when used for pain control)
- Blood transfusions
- Surgery
- IV's and intravenous medications necessary for pain or symptom management
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Tube Feedings
- Ambulance services

The treatment plan should describe in detail the specific hospice services to be provided to the member.

Treatment Plan

Treatment plans and progress notes may be requested for selected members. We reserve the right to review past records and claims submissions. Regence BlueShield requires fully documented treatment plans to include:

- Appropriate and legible chart note documentation
- Physician prescription or referral

Progress reports and/or notes which support the following status of the member:

- The diagnosis or diagnoses must support the level of care provided.
- Medical necessity of the care provided must be demonstrated and may be subject to review.
- Procedures performed must be within the scope of license as defined by either the Revised Code of Washington, Washington Administrative Code, or the governing Quality Assurance Commission.

If you have questions or need assistance, please call provider customer service at **1-800-322-1737**.