

2023 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan - Standard and Basic Option
Section 5(c). Services Provided by a Hospital or Other Facility, and Ambulance Services
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Benefit Description

Hospice Care (cont.)

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

Prior approval from the Local Plan is required for all hospice services. Our prior approval decision will be based on the medical necessity of the hospice treatment plan and the clinical information provided to us by the primary care provider (or specialist) and the hospice provider. We may also request information from other providers who have treated the member. All hospice services must be billed by the approved hospice agency. **You are responsible for making sure the hospice care provider has received prior approval from the Local Plan** (see page [22](#) for instructions). Please check with your Local Plan, and/or visit 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, prior approval is not required. However, our benefits will be limited to those services listed on this page and on pages [91-92](#).

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.

Standard Option - You Pay

Nothing (no deductible)

Basic Option - You Pay

Nothing

Benefit Description

Covered services

We provide benefits for the hospice services listed below when the services have been included in an approved hospice treatment plan and are provided by the home hospice program in which the member is enrolled:

- Advanced care planning (see Section 10, page [152](#))
- Dietary counseling
- Durable medical equipment rental
- Medical social services
- Medical supplies
- Nursing care

Standard Option - You Pay

See next page

Basic Option - You Pay

See next page

Hospice Care - continued on next page

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