



hospice and palliative medicine consult payment policy

description of procedure/service

This policy applies to payment for Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults provided by a physician specializing in Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and a nurse practitioner or physician assistant working under the supervision of a physician specializing in Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

In 2000, the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine defined palliative medicine as: "A model of care devoted to achieve the best possible quality of life of the patient and family throughout the course of a life-threatening illness through the relief of suffering and the control of symptoms. Such relief requires the comprehensive assessment and ... management of the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of patients and their families. Palliative medicine helps the patient and family face the prospect of death assured that comfort will be a priority, values and decisions will be respected, spiritual and psychosocial needs will be addressed, practical support will be available, and opportunities will exist for growth and resolution." Palliative medicine embraces both curative treatment and symptom management.

Hospice is a way of caring for people who are terminally ill that helps them continue their lives as comfortably as possible. Unlike other medical care, the goal of hospice care is not to treat or cure, but to provide supportive services, such as symptom management and pain control.

policy

Fallon Community Health Plan will reimburse for Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults performed by a credentialed Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician, or a credentialed nurse practitioner or a physician assistant who is participating through a contracted entity within the legal scope of practice. The credentialed nurse practitioner or physician assistant services must be rendered in collaboration with or under the supervision of a physician specializing in Hospice and Palliative Medicine for members with a chronic or life-limiting illness.

Goals of Hospice and Palliative Medicine consult:

- Provide education for the patient and family regarding disease progression, symptom management and treatment options
- Identify and address the physical, psychological, spiritual, and social issues during treatment

- Assess the patient's pain and symptom management issues
- Guide and support the patient and family toward developing realistic goals
- Encourage patient and family to consider social, financial and legal issues including advance directives

Once a member enrolls in hospice they are no longer eligible for coverage for Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults.

benefits application

- FCHP Direct Care/FCHP Select Care
- FCHP Independent Care
- FCHP Flex Care Direct/Select
- Fallon Senior Plan™
- FCHP MassHealth
- Major Medical
- Bill at Home/Direct Enrollment
- Fallon Preferred Care

coverage and reimbursement criteria

Reimbursement for Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults will be made to the contracted Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician on a fee-for-service basis. Reimbursement for consults provided by the licensed and credentialed nurse practitioner or physician assistant will be conducted in accordance with the FCHP medical payment policy ADM0040, *nurse practitioner/physician assistant payment policy*.

The member is responsible for a co-payment for this service.

During a Hospice and Palliative Medicine consult, no direct medical care is provided (such as ordering pain medication or laboratory or radiology services, etc.). FCHP will not cover related services when ordered by the Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician. Rather, the Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician will communicate the results of the consults with recommendations for pain management, symptom control and plan of care back to the referring primary care physician.

FCHP will credential the Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician, and the nurse practitioner and physician assistant working under the supervision of a physician specializing in Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

preauthorization guidelines

A referral from the member's PCP is required for Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults.

billing/coding guidelines

Services should be submitted using industry standard forms or HIPAA standard electronic formats.

Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults should be billed with the appropriate CPT code depending on the place of service, i.e., office consults (99241-99245), inpatient consults (99251-99255), home visit (99341-99345 and 99347-99350). The ICD-9-CM code V66.7 should be billed as a secondary diagnosis in conjunction with the member's primary diagnosis.

place of service

Hospice and Palliative Medicine consults may take place in: a hospital, skilled nursing facility, home, or physician's office.

policy implementation

Policy number:	ADM0053
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