



# Home Health Services

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0100.7100

Recent review date: 03/2025

Next review date: 07/2026

*AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

## Policy Overview

This policy outlines guidelines for reimbursement of home health services, place of service (POS) 12.

## Exceptions

Home health care services rendered on the dates of inpatient admission and discharge may be reimbursed.

## Reimbursement Guidelines

Home health care services include skilled nursing services, home health aide services, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and durable medical equipment (DME) or medical supplies that are recommended by the physician as required in the care of the patient and suitable for use in the home. Home health care services are not reimbursable for POS 12 (home) during an inpatient stay.

AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware doesn't have limitations on home health care and infusion therapy. Prior authorization is required.

Hospice Care is covered for members who are certified as terminally ill. Some of the covered services include nursing care, medical social services, physician services, counseling, short-term inpatient care in a hospice inpatient unit of hospital or nursing facility that meets hospice standards, medical appliances and supplies, medications, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology. Care can occur in the home or in a nursing facility. A member must have a medical prognosis that their life expectancy is 6 months or less if the illness runs its normal course. The member must elect hospice rather than active treatment. Coordination- The primary care practitioner, attending physician, or hospice agency must contact the AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware Utilization Management department. The plan will coordinate the necessary arrangement in order to assure continuity and coordination of care. Hospice must obtain certification from the physician that the member is terminally ill.

### **Skilled nursing services**

Skilled nursing services are provided to a person in the home for the purpose of restoring and maintaining his or her maximal level of function and health. These services are rendered in lieu of hospitalization, confinement in an extended care facility, or going outside of the home for services. Skilled nursing services must be prescribed by a physician and be medically necessary for the member's illness or injury.

### **Physical, occupational and speech therapy**

AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware may cover in-home therapy services depending on the member's needs. Skilled therapies are considered reimbursable when prescribed by a physician for homebound patients to improve, develop or restore physical functions lost due to illness or injury.

### **Home health care services**

A home health aide is a provider who assists a member with non-skilled care to meet activities of daily living, thereby maintaining the individual in his or her home environment. Services provided by home health aides may include:

- Personal care
- Assisting with a prescribed exercise regimen that supports skilled therapies but does not require the skills of a therapist.
- Assisting with activities of daily living
- Changing non-sterile dressings that do not require the skills of a licensed nurse
- Routine care of prosthetic and orthotic devices
- Supervising the individual's adherence to prescribed, self-administered medications and/or special diets
- Taking blood pressure and other health monitoring activities

Home health services may have limitations of services, visits and may require prior authorization. Refer to your provider manual and/or the following link for authorization requirements <https://www.amerihhealthcaritasde.com/provider/resources/prior-authorization-lookup.aspx>.

Electronic visit verification guidelines may apply to personal care services or home health care services. Check with AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware for complete guidelines, found at [https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dmma/files/evv\\_service\\_codes\\_20230427.pdf](https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dmma/files/evv_service_codes_20230427.pdf). See also reimbursement policy Electronic Visit Verification (RPC.0090.7100).

## Definitions

### Home health care

Medical care delivered in the patient's home, when the patient is homebound while recovering from an illness, surgery or injury or has a chronic medical condition.

### Place of service (POS)

A two-digit code used on health care professional claims to indicate the setting in which a service was provided.

### Durable medical equipment (DME)

DME is equipment that can withstand repeated use (at least three years) and is used in the home for a medical reason when someone is sick or injured.

## Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10).
- III. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- V. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).
- VI. Delaware Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

## Attachments

N/A

## Associated Policies

RPC.0090.7100- Electronic Visit Verification

## Policy History

03/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised preamble</li><li>• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table</li><li>• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li><li>• Added Associated Policies section</li></ul>