

What is the difference between Medicaid and Medicare?

Medicaid is a need-based program with financial eligibility requirements that do not exist under Medicare. For example, Medicaid covers services for someone who is low-income and who, without in-home support, would otherwise go into a nursing home. Medicare covers services for someone age 65 or older who has been released from the hospital and requires short-term skilled care under a physician's orders.

Are Medicaid rates sufficient to assure access to care?

Statewide payment rates for in-home services are set by the state as flat rates regardless of provider costs or location. Rates were last adjusted in 1999 and currently reflect a 30-50% loss to providers. As a result, access to care is limited because staff funding isn't available to adequately meet demand in many areas of the state.

Is there a waiting list for in-home services?

Most individuals who need skilled nursing care at home are able to get it in New Hampshire; however, they may not be able to get non-skilled services in large blocks of time. The reason for that is because in many areas of the state there is a shortage of home health aides and homemakers. There are also nursing and therapy shortages, particularly for special needs infants and children covered by the Katie Beckett Medicaid waiver program.

What does a home health nurse do?

Home health nurses provide skilled assessment, planning, monitoring, treatment, teaching and evaluation.

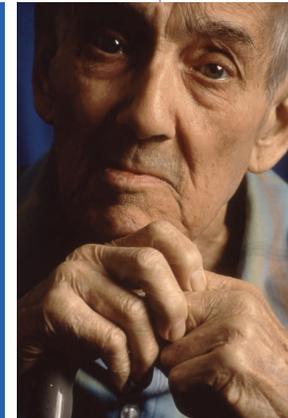
What does a home health aide do?

Home health aides are licensed nursing assistants who assist individuals with daily living activities and personal care. Specific duties depend on the aide's training and experience and the needs of the individual.

What does a homemaker do?

Homemakers assist with laundry, groceries, cleaning, and other routine household tasks.

When Family and Friends Aren't Enough ...



Home Care is the #1 Choice.



Our Members are the Leading Providers of Licensed In-Home Caregivers in New Hampshire.

Visit us at www.homecaresh.org

For most of us it's not a matter of if, but when we'll need in-home care or other caregiver support. When that time arrives it's reassuring to know that Home Care Association of New Hampshire member agencies and their professional staff are available to provide quality in-home care.

Last year in New Hampshire, our membership's licensed professionals tailored in-home services to meet the needs of more than 32,000 recovering, disabled, and chronically ill infants, children and adults who required medical treatment and/or assistance with daily living. Often home care is appropriate when family and friends cannot easily or effectively provide all of the care an individual needs.

Efficient, Affordable and Effective In-Home Care

The Home Care Association of New Hampshire and its member agencies work together to ensure access to efficient, affordable and effective professional in-home care for state residents.

For individuals like Thomas, a Desert Storm veteran stricken with Lou Gehrig's Disease, independence is about making the smallest of choices on a daily basis. He says, "It's great to have (home care) service. Otherwise, I'd be in a nursing home at the age of thirty-six." — Hollis, NH

Home Care Association member agencies are essential to protecting the health and well-being of more than 32,000 New Hampshire citizens.

- The Home Care Association is an advocate on legislative issues of importance to our members and their clients. Our efforts are focused on state legislation and regulation that directly affect the “business environment,” such as Medicaid reimbursement levels and health facility licensing rules.
- Total losses incurred by member home care providers on Medicaid and other state funded services for elderly and disabled adults exceeded \$5.5 million in 2004.

The Home Care Association membership assures access to efficient, affordable and effective in-home care.

- The Home Care Association is comprised of 38 licensed home health agencies.
- Member agency staff travel over **nine million miles** to make more than **one million home visits** each year.
- By adhering to strict state and federal regulatory guidelines member agencies subscribe to high standards of patient care.
- According to a National Association for Home Care and Hospice report, New Hampshire ranked among the five U.S. states with the lowest cost per Medicare nursing visit.

- Most member agencies accept Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance coverage for services, and some provide services on a sliding fee scale as well.

Home Care Association member agencies employ skilled and licensed healthcare professionals.

- Member agencies must abide by personnel requirements developed by the State of New Hampshire, including the Board of Nursing, which help ensure patient safety and security. All workers undergo thorough screening including criminal background checks, as well as ongoing in-service training and supervision.
- Home care professionals work with patients and their informal caregivers to meet individual and family needs.
- Unlicensed workers employed by member agencies, such as homemakers and companions, are trained, supervised, and insured by the provider.

On the eve of her seventeenth birthday, Crystal suffered multiple trauma from a devastating car accident. Skilled in-home rehabilitation services allowed her to recover at home. “It was a real relief knowing we could bring Crystal home instead of having her in a rehab,” says her mother. “We wanted her at home with her family.” — Colebrook, NH

Employing a licensed caregiver over a family member, friend, or an unlicensed provider grows more important when:

- Family and friends feel overwhelmed with caregiver responsibilities.
- The individual's medical needs grow too complicated or complex.
- The individual's health is too unstable or declines.
- Skilled nursing care is needed.
- Families don't want to take on employer responsibilities and hassles.
- Safety and security are a concern.