

Coverage of any medical intervention discussed in a Prevea360 Health Plan medical policy is subject to the limitations and exclusions outlined in the member's benefit certificate or summary plan description (SPD) and to applicable state and/or federal laws.

Hospice Services

MP9299

Covered Service: Yes

**Prior Authorization
Required:** No

**Additional
Information:** None

Prevea360 Health Plan Medical Policy:

- 1.0 Hospice Services **do not require** prior authorization and are medically necessary when the following criteria are met:
 - 1.1 Physician certification of terminal illness with a life expectancy of one year or less with the understanding that prediction of life expectancy is not exact; **AND**
 - 1.2 Member has elected to receive no curative treatment and requests medical intervention for symptom relief only; **AND**
 - 1.3 Documentation of hospice eligibility may include **ANY** of the following to support medical necessity of hospice services:
 - 1.3.1 History of recent progression of the disease, including treatment and indications of disease severity, decline in functioning, or increased need for emergency room visits or hospitalization
 - 1.3.2 Physical exam documentation that is focused on evidence of disease severity and specific disease criteria listed in the National Hospice Care Palliative Organization (NHCPO) guidelines
 - 1.3.3 Indication of the members physical functioning (e.g. Karnofsky Performance Status Scale score of 50% or less), ability to ambulate, and ability to complete activities of daily living
 - 1.3.4 Nutritional indicators of disease severity are recommended but no required to confirm hospice eligibility
 - 1.3.5 Mental status assessment, particularly for members with dementia
- 2.0 Short term acute inpatient hospice services **do not require** prior authorization and may be considered medically necessary when the member meets **one or more** of the following criteria:

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- 2.1 Intractable Pain when adequate pain control cannot be achieved in the home by caregivers or hospice staff
- 2.2 Other Symptom Management – Symptoms have not effectively responded to active medical management within the home or residential setting including, but not limited to:
 - 2.2.1 Severe respiratory distress
 - 2.2.2 Intractable nausea and vomiting despite intravenous (IV) medication management
- 2.3 Frequent complex care required by trained personnel and documentation that any and all caregiver(s) cannot be trained to administer:
 - 2.3.1 Respiratory suctioning and/or trach care
 - 2.3.2 Parenteral medication administration
 - 2.3.3 Management of drainage from body orifices and/or fistulas
 - 2.3.4 Monitoring of unstable medical conditions that are negatively impacting quality of life, (e.g., hemorrhage, severe anemia, severe hypertension, unstable diabetes, severe electrolyte disturbances)
 - 2.3.5 Coverage for Inpatient Hospice Services under Section 2.0 is with the understanding that the inpatient hospice services will be of short duration and specifically to train the designated home caregiver. Ongoing coverage for services in the Inpatient (IP) hospice setting will be considered custodial and/or respite if there is no indication of ongoing progress in training or attempts to learn the complex care required for the member in the home setting.
- 2.4 Active management of symptoms for members whose death is imminent for achieving member comfort and family coping.
- 2.5 Inpatient hospice care is not covered when the member's needs are solely for custodial care. See 4.0 for examples of custodial care
- 3.0 Respite care and residential care at a hospice inpatient facility are **not** a covered benefit in most Health Plan member benefit certificates.
 - 3.1 If member is enrolled in hospice programs, the Health Plan reimburses at the current outpatient hospice per diem rate toward residential or respite services.
 - 3.2 The member and/or family are responsible for any remaining charges.
- 4.0 Custodial care is **not** covered. Custodial care is the type of care given when the basic goal is to help a person with activities of daily living (ADLs), which includes but is not limited to:
 - 4.1 Bathing, dressing or eating

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- 4.2 Getting out of bed
- 4.3 Maintenance of bowel and bladder function
- 4.4 Preparing special diets
- 4.5 Taking medications
- 4.6 24 hr. supervision for potentially unsafe behavior related or unrelated to mental status changes
- 4.7 Ostomy care
- 4.8 Tube and gastrostomy feedings
- 5.0 In addition to standard symptom relief (e.g., analgesics, antiemetics), the following may be considered medically necessary if the goal is medical intervention for symptom relief only and not curative:
 - 5.1 Radiation therapy
 - 5.2 Intravenous (IV) hydration
 - 5.3 Enteral nutrition
 - 5.4 Transfusion of blood products
- 6.0 The hospice care provider will aim to prevent, identify and resolve ethical dilemmas related to specific interventions, such as withholding or withdrawing treatments (including nutrition and hydration), instituting Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, and the use of sedation.
- 7.0 If the hospice member elects to pursue any curative treatment services, the following applies:
 - 7.1 Hospice care is considered terminated immediately upon initiation of curative therapy or active treatment with investigational therapies.
 - 7.2 If the member wishes to resume hospice care, the criteria outlined under 1.0 must be met based on re-assessment of the member's current medical status.
- 8.0 Scheduled home visits by a Hospice Medical Director **do not require** prior authorization and may be considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:
 - 8.1 Services are unable to be provided by member's primary care provider or treating specialist; **AND**
 - 8.2 Services are unable to be provided in a clinic or hospital setting; **AND**
 - 8.3 Services are medically necessary to address the member's immediate care needs.

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	Committee/Source	Date(s)
Document		
Created:	Utilization Management Committee/ Medical Affairs/	May 14, 2003
Revised:	Utilization Management Committee/Medical Affairs/	March 9, 2005
	UM Case Manager	
	Utilization Management Committee/Medical Affairs	July 9, 2008
	Utilization Management Committee/Medical Affairs	January 14, 2009
	Medical Director Committee/Quality and Care	
	Management Division	January 20, 2016
	Medical Policy Committee/Quality and Care	
	Management Division	April 19, 2017
	Medical Policy Committee/Quality and Care	
	Management Division	April 18, 2018
	Medical Policy Committee/Quality and Care	
	Management Division	May 16, 2018
	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	April 17, 2019
	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	August 21, 2019
	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	January 15, 2020
	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	February 19, 2020
	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	November 17, 2021
	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	September 20, 2023

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Committee/Source	Date(s)
Reviewed: UM Committee (UMC)/Director UM/ UMC Chair	March 10, 2004
UM Committee (UMC)/Director UM/UMC Chair	March 9, 2005 March
UM Committee (UMC)/Director UM/ UMC Chair	8, 2006
UM Committee (UMC)/Director UM/UMC Chair	March 14, 2007
Reformatted	May 2007
UM Committee (UMC)/Director UM/UMC Chair	March 12, 2008
UM Committee (UMC)/Director UM/UMC Chair	April 8, 2009
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	June 16, 2010
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	June 23, 2011
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	June 16, 2012
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	August 15, 2012
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	January 16, 2013
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	January 15, 2014
Medical Director Committee/Medical Affairs	January 21, 2015
Medical Director Committee/Quality and Care Management Division	January 20, 2016
Medical Policy Committee/Quality and Care Management Division	April 19, 2017
Medical Policy Committee/Quality and Care Management Division	April 18, 2017
Medical Policy Committee/Quality and Care Management Division	May 16, 2018
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	April 17, 2019
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	August 21, 2019
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	January 15, 2020
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	February 19, 2020
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	February 17, 2021
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	November 17, 2021
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	November 16, 2022
Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	September 20, 2023

Published: 01/01/2024

Effective: 01/01/2024