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Northwest Region Utilization Review

UR 76: Home-Based Palliative Care Medical Necessity Criteria

Department: Continuing Care Services	Number: UR 76
Applies to: KPNW Region	Effective: 3/2021
Review Responsibility: Christina Kemper, MD; Allyson Snider, RN/Operations Manager	Reviewed: 3/21, 5/22, 7/26 Revised: 7/23, 7/24, 7/25

HOME-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA

DEFINITIONS

Home-based palliative care approach in the home aimed at optimizing quality of life, diminishing symptoms and mitigating suffering among people with a serious, complex illness. Services include palliative physician, nursing and social work, and spiritual care services in the home. Home-based palliative care is supplemental medical care in addition to the patient's primary and specialty care teams.

CRITERIA

To qualify for Home-Based Palliative Care, patients must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

1) Have a serious, progressive, terminal illness with a life expectancy of likely less than 1- 2 years;

2) Need specialty level assistance with symptom management;

3) Be functionally homebound;

4) Patients with pain unrelated to an advanced, progressive, terminal illness that causes symptoms, are *not* eligible.

SPECIAL GROUP CONSIDERATIONS

Commercial: None
Washington Medicaid: None
Oregon Medicaid: None
Medicare: HBPC services are not specifically covered by Medicare and are not addressed in an LCD/NCD but are covered by KPNW in the home to diminish symptoms of terminally ill members with a limited life expectancy. Although the current Senior Advantage EOC limits HBPC eligibility to members with a life expectancy of 7–12 months, the less restrictive criteria above will be applied to all requests.