

**UR 76: Home-Based Palliative Care  
Medical Necessity Criteria**

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Department: Continuing Care Services

Number: UR 76

Applies to: KPNW Region

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**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 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 dementia or 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.