

Modern Healthcare

PALLIATIVE-CARE COVERAGE

The hospice setting vs. the hospital

Hospice

- Covered through Medicare-certified hospices for patients with short life expectancy, no curative care; private insurers will provide palliative care as a benefit that mirrors Medicare.
- Most state Medicaid programs provide coverage for hospice, but services may vary from state to state.

Hospital

- Doctors and advanced-practice nurses in some states are reimbursed for initial consultation and follow-up.
- Some services under Medicaid hospice benefit—such as counseling—could be provided in a hospital setting.
- Hospitals often pick up the tab for social work and spiritual and bereavement counseling.

Source: Modern Healthcare reporting