



SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE DIVISION COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU Home Health Policy Manual

Title: Home Health Policy 505
Section: ELIGIBLE SERVICES
Subject: Therapy Services
Reference: ARM 37.40.701, 42 CFR 484.32
Supersedes: Policy 505, Issued 11/01/2001

HOME HEALTH THERAPY SERVICES

Therapy Services mean speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy provided by a licensed therapist through a licensed and certified Home Health agency.

Speech Therapy Services means the practice of speech-language pathology as defined in 37-15-102, MCA.

Occupational Therapy Services means the practice of occupational therapy services as defined in 37-24-103, MCA.

Physical Therapy Services means the practice of physical therapy services as defined in 37-11-101, MCA.

Licensed Therapist means a speech-language pathologist, an occupational therapist, or a physical therapist licensed under the applicable provisions of Title 37, MCA to practice the particular category of service but does exclude an assistant, an aide, or other person whose authority to perform services is restricted to working under the supervision of another.

All therapy services under the Home Health benefit must be provided by a licensed therapist. Services of a therapy assistant, therapy aide, or other person are not reimbursable under Home Health.

RESTORATIVE THERAPY

The Home Health benefit provides coverage for restorative therapy services when the particular restorative therapy services are reasonable and necessary to the member's condition. In addition, the member is unable to obtain such services through an out-patient clinic or private practice setting due to their medical status. The amount and frequency of services provided must be within the particular therapy's accepted practice.

Restorative therapy services are therapy services that are performed with a reasonable expectation that the member's function will improve significantly in a reasonable and predictable period of time, based upon an assessment of the member's

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restoration potential made by a physician in consultation with the licensed therapist.

Therapy services are not restorative if the member's expected restoration potential would be insignificant in relation to the extent and duration of services required. Therapy services are no longer restorative if at any time after beginning treatment, it is determined that the reasonable expectation of significant improvement will not materialize.

MAINTENANCE THERAPY

The Home Health benefit does not cover maintenance therapy services. Maintenance therapy is defined as repetitive therapy services that are required to maintain functions that are performed without reasonable expectation of significant progress and that do not involve complex and sophisticated therapy services requiring the judgment or skill of a licensed therapist.

The establishment of a maintenance therapy plan by a licensed therapist is reimbursable. The establishment of a maintenance plan includes the:

1. Initial evaluation of the member;
2. Development of a plan that incorporates the treatment objectives of the prescribing physician and is appropriate for the member's capacity and tolerance;
and
3. Instruction of others in carrying out the plan and further evaluations by a licensed therapist as required.