

CHECKLIST

HOME HEALTH PROVIDERS CONSIDERATIONS

NOTE:

- Traditional Medicare pays 100% so price is not involved.
- For Medicare replacement/ advantage plans – you need to verify who is in network which may limit choice.
- All Medicare agencies have to offer skilled nursing, PT/ OT/ ST, social work and home health aide (limited services).
- Medicare does not limit the time of service. The amount of care is directed by medical necessity of the services.
- A Medical Doctor must authorize services and the patient must be homebound.

Which agencies serve the zip code where the patient will be staying?

How soon can the agency start care?

Do they provide Specialty programs such as fall prevention, cardiac specialty, etc)

Patients may go on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) to see ratings of each agency.

- You Should not make a decision based only on that data as it may be dated.
 - The way agencies answer the Medicare assessment tool can affect those scores so not always comparing apples to apples.

Many Assisted living communities now offer outpatient therapy in their communities. If patients will choose HOME HEALTH care first, they can maximize their therapy because they can then transition to outpatient therapy after completing home health.

- Medicare only pays 80% for outpatient therapy.
- Medicare supplement plans can cover the 20%.

CAUTION: Why use your supplement for therapy services if you can get covered 100% by Medicare for HOME HEALTH THERAPY.

- These outpatient Home Health Providers pay the Assisted Living Communities to operate within the communities.
- Even though a patient has orders for only therapy (no nursing), HOME HEALTH can still provide the care.

Some retirement communities have a preferred home health provider. They like to use a specific agency due to communication, responsiveness, timeliness, documentation, etc.

Patients do not have to choose the Hospital owned agency or the facility owned agency.

- There is no cost incentive or advantage for records. Home health agencies have access to the patient's info when preparing for discharge.

Independent Home Health agencies can work with patients from any hospital, skilled rehab, assisted living or MD office.

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