

# WHO QUALIFIES FOR HOME HEALTH?

*A patient may qualify for Home Health services when all of the following apply:*

-  **The Patient Requires Skilled Care**
  - Skilled Nursing (wound care, medication management, new diagnoses, post-hospital monitoring)
  - Physical Therapy (mobility, gait, strength training)
  - Occupational Therapy (ADL support, home safety)
  - Speech Therapy (if applicable)
  
-  **The Patient Meets “Homebound Status” (Medicare Definition)**

Homebound does NOT mean bedridden—patients must meet one or both of:

  - They need the help of another person, device, or special transportation to leave home,
  - OR their provider believes leaving home is unsafe.
  - Leaving home requires considerable and taxing effort and occurs infrequently.
  
-  **The Care Is Medically Necessary** - Care must be ordered by a physician, APRN, or PA and tied to a clinical condition.
  
-  **The Patient Has a Willing and Safe Home Environment** - A caregiver is not required, but the home must be appropriate for receiving care.
  
-  **Who Does NOT Qualify for Home Health?**
  - Patients who need 24/7 care, supervision, or custodial care only
  - Patients who are not homebound or who regularly leave home without difficulty
  - Patients needing long-term personal care without a skilled need
  - Patients requiring continuous wound packing, IV infusions, or complex care beyond scope
  - Patients seeking companion care, housekeeping, or transportation services
  - Patients who need rehab only available in outpatient therapy and can safely travel to appointments
  
-  **What Home Health Agencies Can Legally Provide**
  - Skilled nursing assessments, wound care, injections, catheter care
  - Disease and medication management
  - Post-surgical follow-up and monitoring
  - Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy
  - Care planning and coordination with providers
  - Home Health Aide support only as part of a skilled plan of care
  - Education for patients and caregivers
  - Safety evaluations and fall prevention interventions
  - Telecommunication/remote patient monitoring (if applicable and ordered)
  
-  **What Home Health Agencies CANNOT Provide**
  - 24-hour care, overnight stays, or on-site supervision
  - Housekeeping (laundry, dishes, cleaning)
  - Errands or transportation
  - Medication administration outside of scheduled skilled visits
  - Long-term custodial care without a skilled service
  - Daily bath-only visits or aide services without an active skilled plan (Medicare requirement)
  - Home modifications (ramps, equipment installation—not covered by Home Health)
  - Refill calls or pharmacy management not tied to a skilled need
  - Emergency response services (Home Health is not an urgent care or EMS substitute)