

NJ Medicaid Community-Based Palliative Care benefit

What is the Community-Based Palliative Care benefit?

Beginning in 2026, Medicaid will cover Community-Based Palliative Care (CBPC) benefits for eligible individuals enrolled in Medicaid. The CBPC benefit supports members with serious health conditions. It focuses on easing symptoms, coordinating care, and helping you and your family navigate the health system, while you keep getting your regular treatments. Care is provided at home or in other community places (not in a hospital) by an interdisciplinary care team that creates a care plan based on your needs and goals.

What services will be provided?

Depending on the member's individual needs, CBPC Services may include:

- Help managing symptoms
- Home visits from nurses, social workers, or other licensed providers
- Help with planning for future care needs
- Coordinating and connecting you to other services
- Emotional, social, and spiritual support for you and your caregivers
- Reviewing and adjusting medications
- Guidance and support for caregivers
- Access to a 24/7 telephone line for urgent questions or concerns

What services will NOT be provided?

CBPC does not include hospice care, inpatient hospital care, or non-medical services. Those services are covered separately by Medicaid.

What is the difference between hospice and palliative care?

Hospice and palliative care are different benefits. Hospice and CBPC cannot be used at the same time.

Hospice is a benefit for anyone with a terminal illness and is available for the person when their doctor has determined providing curative treatment is not an option or the members choice. The person may also choose to select hospice over curative treatment. The person is provided symptom relief with the palliative care benefit.

Palliative care is a benefit for anyone with a serious illness; however, they are still receiving curative treatments for their illness along with symptom relief and advanced care coordination.

Criteria to be eligible for the CBPC benefit

To be considered eligible for CBPC, you must have a serious illness and signs that it has affected your daily life. Eligibility criteria for the CBPC benefits are outlined below. UHC may also approve CBPC if it decides the service is medically necessary for you.

- Enrolled with UHC and Medicaid eligible
- Adult and pediatric members who meet the following criteria:
 - Have been diagnosed with a serious disease
 - Show evidence of a reduced quality of life, to include:
 - Experiencing difficulty with one or more activities of daily living, OR
 - Two or more emergency department visits in the past six months, OR
 - One acute hospitalization in the past year

Who will provide these services?

These services will be provided by provider groups who have a team of qualified Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) practitioners that have received special training and certifications to work with Palliative Care members. These providers will work with your UHC Care Management team to coordinate needed Medicaid covered services.

Practitioners include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Medical Director
- MD or DO
- Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Physician Assistant (PA)
- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Licensed Mental Health Practitioner – May be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)
- Chaplain
- Child Life Specialist (required only for pediatric members)

Additional practitioners that may be included in the IDT:

- Pharmacist
- Home Health Aide (HHA)
- Certified Nursing Aide (CNA)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Community Health Worker (CHW)

How do I locate an in-network provider

A list of in-network providers can be found on the UHC member website: **New Jersey NJ Family Care | UnitedHealthcare Community Plan** (<https://www.uhc.com/communityplan/new-jersey/plans/medicaid/familycare>) select **Find a provider** then select **General search for providers and facilities**.

How do I access this benefit?

You may ask your doctor for a referral. You may also contact your assigned Care Manager who will assist you with referral for an assessment to be completed.

You may also contact the state through the NJ FamilyCare Medicaid Hotline: **1-800-356-1561**.

Key contacts:

NJ FamilyCare Medicaid Hotline: **1-800-356-1561**

UHC Member Services: **1-800-941-4647**

Service/ Benefit	Members in Medicaid, DDD, MLTSS, or HIDE SNP	NJ FamilyCare Plan A/ABP	NJ FamilyCare Plan B	NJ FamilyCare Plan C	NJ FamilyCare Plan D
Community- Based Palliative Care	Covered by all plans The Community-Based Palliative Care (CBPC) program supports members with serious health conditions. It focuses on easing symptoms, coordinating care, and helping you and your family navigate the health system, while you keep getting your regular treatments. Care is provided at home or in other community places (not in a hospital) by an interdisciplinary care team that creates a care plan based on your needs and goals.				