

# Comprehensive care and support when it matters most

## How the expanded hospice benefit works for members with advanced illnesses

Members with advanced illness experience physical and emotional challenges. To support our members, we have enhanced the hospice benefit. This means that members can get extra support earlier and easier access to care. With the expanded hospice benefit, members with life expectancy of up to 12 months can take advantage of hospice support services, even while undergoing disease-modifying treatments.<sup>1</sup>

### Better quality of life for members

Our expanded hospice benefit helps ensure members can access services and support from hospice professionals without having to make difficult decisions to end disease-modifying treatments. When providers talk about hospice earlier, it can foster open communication between the member, provider and family members regarding the member's values and wishes. Treatment and care decisions can then be made to fit the member's preferences. Members have access to an interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, home health aides, social workers, therapists, clergy and volunteers focused on helping members feel better and more supported, and improve their quality of life.

### Earlier support and focused care

-  Members with 12-month life expectancy may access hospice while undergoing treatment.
-  Families talk about care preferences and make decisions that honor members' values and preferences.
-  Support is focused on easing physical and emotional burden.
-  24/7 access to professional care team.
-  A dedicated team coordinates access to needed services, drugs and supplies.
-  With a focus on symptom control and pain management, quality of life improves.

### Focused care results in cost savings

Health care costs during the last year of life can be substantial. When an urgent health care need arises, members engaged with hospice care have access to support. A comprehensive care team is there for them to address pain or symptoms. Having access to these professionals can help decrease visits to the emergency room and reduce hospital admissions.

### Members engaged with hospice:<sup>2</sup>

**23%** hospital **21%** ICU **24%** invasive  
**fewer** admissions **fewer** admissions **fewer** procedures

These reductions can greatly decrease the financial burden for members and their families in addition to cutting costs for employers.

**Want to learn more about the expanded hospice benefit?**

**Talk to your Anthem representative.**



<sup>1</sup> Disease-modifying treatments can change the course of a disease or slow it down.  
<sup>2</sup> Obermeyer Z., Makar M., Abujaber S., Dominici F., Block S., Cutler, D.M. (2014). Association Between the Medicare Hospice Benefit and Health Care Utilization and Costs for Patients With Poor-Prognosis Cancer. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 312(18),1888-1896.

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