

Homecare

Homecare is just that — care at home provided to individuals that may be unable to leave home unassisted. Medicare defines a homebound patient as an individual with a condition that causes a normal inability to leave home and, consequently, leaving his or her home would require a considerable and taxing effort. If the patient does in fact leave the home, the patient may still be considered homebound if the absences from the home are infrequent or for periods of relatively short duration. It is expected that in most instances absences from the home will be for the purpose of receiving medical treatment. However, occasional absences from the home for nonmedical purposes such as a trip to the barber, a walk around the block, attendance at a family event such as a funeral or graduation, or other infrequent or unique events would not necessitate finding that the patient is not homebound if the absences are undertaken on an infrequent basis or are of relatively short duration and do not indicate that the patient has the capacity to obtain the health care provided outside rather than in the home.

The provision of care at home does not necessarily mean the patient is terminally ill, as a matter of fact a great deal of medical care that was traditionally provided in a hospital is now being provided in the home. It is less costly to provide medical care in the home than to provide it in an inpatient facility. Traditional homecare services usually provide lower acuity services, but as technology advances and inpatient reimbursements skyrocket, higher acuity medical care is being provided in the home. In addition to the provision of less expensive medical care, patients prefer to be at home versus in a facility. Patients usually improve faster because they can be surrounded by people they care about and can provide the support needed.

AeroCare specializes in Respiratory Services and strives to provide the ultimate in care and services for our patients. You can rest assured that you will get the best possible care available with AeroCare.

Clinical Respiratory Services

Clinical respiratory services are services provided for treatment of individuals with disorders of the pulmonary system, including diagnostic testing, therapeutics, and monitoring. Clinical respiratory services are more advanced services than what is traditionally categorized as respiratory medical equipment. Examples of clinical respiratory services include artificial ventilation, chest postural drainage, aerosol treatment, pulmonary rehabilitation, and pulmonary suctioning. Many clinical respiratory services involve the training of family members or patients to perform long-term procedures.



Clinical respiratory service providers are typically extensions of a durable medical equipment provider's scope of services, but may be provided by specialized organizations that only provide clinical respiratory services. Clinical respiratory services must be performed by licensed respiratory care practitioners or other professionally qualified clinicians.

Clinical respiratory services are provided under the direction of a medical director because of the performance of medical treatments. The medical director evaluates the care and service provided and sets standards for the clinical respiratory organization. In addition, the medical director is involved in monitoring treatment plans by participating in care conferences. These care conferences include clinicians of the clinical respiratory provider and may also include other providers of care such as nursing and home health care. The discussion in these care conferences centers around the care provided, care prescribed, and the outcomes of treatment provided; the goal is to monitor and improve upon patient care so the goals of treatment are obtained in a manner that is best for the patient.

Medical Equipment Services

Medical equipment services are services provided by a team of customer service personnel and trained medical equipment technicians in an individual's place of residence. This team of healthcare professionals provides for the intake, delivery, assessment, documentation, care, and discharge requirements associated with the provision of medical equipment to individuals who have or are at risk of an injury, an illness, a disabling condition, or who are terminally ill and require short-term or long-term intervention with the utilization of specialized medical equipment services. These services may include the provision of ambulation aids, toileting aids, bath aids, hospital beds, wheelchairs, and respiratory equipment.



Medical equipment suppliers provide equipment activities that include:

- The determination of appropriate physician orders (if required).
- The determination of coverage and reimbursements.
- The ordering and planned delivery of ordered equipment and/or supplies.
- The functional checking, delivery, assessment, exchange, rental return, and routine maintenance of all equipment provided.
- Creation and maintenance of medical records.

Medical equipment providers account for only a small part of the dollars spent on healthcare each year but these totals are growing each year as medical equipment becomes more specialized and more individuals are treated in the home. Not all medical equipment requires a prescription in order to be provided to customers; however, a physician prescription is required in order to bill an insurance company or government payor.