

## Comparison of Medicare Hospice Benefit, VA-Paid Hospice and Concurrent Care

	When Medicare Hospice Benefit (MHB) is payer	When VA-Paid Hospice is payer	When MHB and VA provide care of the terminal illness concurrently
Primary payer	Medicare	VA	Medicare – hospice VA – may provide palliative or disease modifying treatments <u>not</u> provided by hospice as well as care not related to the hospice dx
Who owns the Veteran’s Plan of Care for the terminal diagnosis?	Hospice agency	Hospice agency	Hospice agency
Who manages care unrelated to hospice dx?	Hospice agency, possibly in collaboration with VA	Hospice agency in collaboration with VA	Hospice agency in collaboration with VA
Prognosis	6 months or less certified by 2 physicians	6 months or less certified by 2 physicians, including VA physician	6 months or less certified by 2 physicians
Goals of Care	Focused on comfort care	Focused on comfort care but may include VA provided treatments for terminal illness that have the potential for extending life	Focused on comfort care but may include VA provided treatments for terminal illness that have the potential for extending life
Physician participation in the hospice care plan	VA physician can be Primary Care Provider (PCP) but off tour coverage needs to be established and include appropriate expertise (e.g., hospice medical director or designee)	VA physician can be Primary Care Provider (PCP) but off tour coverage needs to be established and include appropriate expertise (e.g., hospice medical director or designee)	VA physician can be Primary Care Provider (PCP) but off tour coverage needs to be established and include appropriate expertise (e.g., hospice medical director or designee)
Interdisciplinary Staff	Must use hospice agency Interdisciplinary Team to provide care in the Veteran’s own home or in an institution that serves as the Veteran’s home	Must use hospice agency Interdisciplinary Team to provide care in the Veteran’s own home or in an institution that serves as the Veteran’s home	Must use hospice agency Interdisciplinary Team to provide care in the Veteran’s own home or in an institution that serves as the Veteran’s home
Medications	Hospice agency must cover meds related to hospice dx; VA provides non-related meds	Hospice agency must cover meds related to hospice dx; VA provides non-related meds	VA may cover some meds related to hospice dx if hospice agency policy refuses coverage; VA provides non-related meds
Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	Home hospice must cover DME related to hospice dx; VA provides DME non-related to hospice dx	Home hospice must cover DME related to hospice dx; VA provides DME non-related to hospice dx	VA may cover some DME related to hospice dx if hospice agency policy unable to provide coverage; VA provides non-related DME

Respite	Hospice agency determines if Veteran will be placed in their inpatient unit or contracted bed. If VA beds are used, agency may need to discharge Veteran from Medicare hospice	VA physician approval required to change level of care; VA determines where Veteran will be placed	Hospice agency determines if Veteran will be placed in own inpt unit or contracted bed; if VA beds are used agency may need to discharge Veteran from hospice
GIP	Hospice agency determines if Veteran will be placed in their inpatient unit or contracted bed. If VA beds are used, agency may need to discharge Veteran from Medicare hospice	VA approval required to change level of care; VA determines where Veteran will be placed	Hospice agency determines if Veteran will be placed in their inpatient unit or contracted bed. If VA beds are used, agency may need to discharge Veteran from Medicare hospice
Continuous Care	Hospice agency determines need	VA approval required to change level of care	Hospice agency determines need