

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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17,700 providers deliver home care services. How do you choose the right one?

*Understand the differences between home care service options.*

(CITY – Date, 2008) –According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17,700 providers deliver home care services to 7.6 million individuals. MY COMPANY is encouraging seniors and their families to understand the differences between all the available in-home services offered by Medicare Home Health, Medicaid, Private Duty/Private Pay, and Hospice. We believe it is important to be informed and are assisting the public in determining which home care options best suit specific needs.

**MEDICARE HOME HEALTH**

- Medicare Home Health Care is skilled nursing care and certain other health care services one receives in one's own home for the treatment of an illness or injury.
- Medicare Certified Home Health Agencies are surveyed and certified to assure all Medicare Conditions of Participation have been met (clinical services, operational, financial, billing, and other organizational issues).

## **MEDICAID HOME CARE**

- Medicaid is a Federal/State partnership funded by both entities to cover all types of healthcare for the poor.
- Coverage criteria and covered services are determined by each state and recipients do not need to be homebound or ill to receive the services.
- If the patient is mutually eligible, both Medicare and Medicaid can be payment sources, with Medicare usually the primary payer and Medicaid secondary.

## **PRIVATE DUTY/PRIVATE PAY**

- Private duty/private pay services are usually paid directly by the patient and his or her family members.
- Long term care insurance, worker's compensation and some armed services funding may cover private duty/private pay services, if the agency qualifies for reimbursement under the policies.

Unlike Medicare certified home health agencies, many states do not require private duty agencies to be licensed or meet regulatory requirements. Due to this fact, there are several different levels or models of home care within the private duty/private pay spectrum. There are two types of private duty business models:

1. The full service agency employs caregivers, monitors and supervises care, and provides W-2s to its employees
2. The Nurse Registry or Healthcare Registry simply matches client and caregiver and does not employ, train, monitor or supervise workers sent into private homes

**Comment [MA01]:** Based on state licensure this paragraph may need to be changed.

## HOSPICE

- Hospice is a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments.
- Most hospices accept patients who have a life-expectancy of six months or less and who are referred by their personal physician.
- Hospice care neither prolongs life nor hastens death. Hospice staff and volunteers offer a specialized knowledge of medical care, including pain management.
- Hospice coverage is widely available—offered by most private insurance providers and through Medicare nationwide, as an optional Medicaid service covered by 47 states (excludes Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma).
- Most hospices will provide for anyone who cannot pay using money raised from the community or from memorial or foundation gifts.

Contact **MY COMPANY** for help understanding the differences between all the available in-home services offered by Medicare Home Health, Medicaid, Private Duty/Private Pay, and Hospice. Each person's situation is different and **MY COMPANY** will gladly provide more information and other resources necessary to determine which home care option best suits specific needs.

### About **My Company**

My Company is . . . and was founded in . . . and its mission is . . .

Further information can be found on **My Company Web site**.