

Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, November 6, 2025



New Mexico Association for Home & Hospice Care

Home Health Care

Skilled care given by health care professionals such as nurses, physical, occupational, and speech therapists

The care must be ordered by a physician or a non-physician provider

Not quite 14,000 NM Medicare beneficiaries used home health benefit

72 Medicare certified home health agencies

Hospice

Addresses patient's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs

Helps the patient's family and caregivers

Emphasis is on caring, not curing

Care typically provided in the home

Not quite 11,500 NM Medicare beneficiaries use hospice benefit

53 Medicare certified hospice agencies

Personal Care Services

Medicaid community benefit for individuals with a nursing facility level of care determine

Assistance with some or all of activities of daily living

Purpose is to avoid institutionalization and/or to increase individual's ability to remain independent

Over 32,000 Medicaid personal care service members

Palliative Care is a Philosophy

Palliative Care:

Focuses on relieving symptoms and improving quality of life for people with serious, chronic illnesses.

Can be provided at any stage of illness — not limited to end-of-life care.

Works alongside curative treatments.

Hospice Care:

Is a type of Palliative Care focused on comfort and support when an illness is terminal or at the end of life.

Emphasizes care for both the patient and family during the final months of life.

Shared Philosophy:

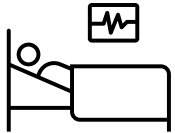
Both use a team-based approach to support the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of patients.

Prioritize comfort, dignity, and quality of life.

Care in the Home is Patient Preferred & Saves Healthcare Dollars



AARP Public Policy Institute report that **90% of people 65 and older** would prefer to receive care in their homes for as long as possible.



Personal care services reduce costly nursing home placements and hospital readmissions. [According to New Mexico Health Care Authority's Turquoise Care Waiver Renewal application](#), a nursing home placement costs the State over \$9,039/month; on average, Personal Care Services cost the State 3,582/month. **Savings of over \$5,000/month**



Access to home health, according to a study by the [Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare](#), resulted in **34% lower hospital readmission rate**. Additionally, patients receiving home health within 7 days of discharge saw substantially lower hospital readmission rates compared to those who went home without services.



Finally, according to [a study by NORC at the University of Chicago](#), hospice saves an estimated **\$3.7 billion** in Medicare outlays for beneficiaries in their last year of life.

National Landscape

The Charlotte Observer

For this NC family, Medicaid cuts could force decisions on keeping care at home

By Nora O'Neill

Updated October 27, 2025 2:28 PM |  Gift Article



Op-Ed: Home health helps families, so why is Washington trying to cut it?

By Terry Wilcox October 24, 2025

 **Home Health Care** News

CMS Faces Flood of Comments Opposing 2026 Home Health Payment

By Morgan Gonzales | August 27, 2025

Modern Healthcare

Home health groups press for a piece of rural health funding



By **Diane Eastabrook** September 02, 2025 04:00 AM

2026 Legislative Priorities

Personal Care Services reimbursement rate increases

Pediatric Palliative Care benefit

**Mercer
Study**



Government Human Services Consulting

Analysis for Agency-Based Community Benefit Services

Published December 9, 2024

Agency Based Community Benefit Personal Care Service models

Personal care consumer delegated

Member chooses personal care services agency and agency is responsible for ensuring that all services are delivered

Personal care consumer directed

Members can oversee their own services delivery' works with the PCS agency as the fiscal intermediary

Mercer Findings

SFY2026 Modeled Wage Ranges

Service	Lower Bound	Medium	Upper Bound
Personal Care Consumer Delegated	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$20.00
Personal Care Consumer Directed	\$16.00	\$18.00	\$20.00

Mercer Findings

SFY2026 Modeled Rate Ranges

Service	Lower Bound	Medium	Upper Bound
Personal Care Consumer Delegated	\$31.92	\$36.00	\$40.00
Personal Care Consumer Directed	\$25.48	\$28.35	\$31.23

NM Published Fee Schedule

LOD 59: CB Recommended Provider Rates

Service	Procedure Code	Unit	Recommended Rate
Personal Care Consumer Delegated	T1019	15 min	\$5.10
Personal Care Consumer Directed	99509	Hour	\$17.20

New Mexico State Comparison

State	Personal Care reimbursement 1 hour	Minimum Wage
New Mexico	\$20.40	\$12.00
Arizona	\$34.80	\$14.35
Colorado- Denver (non-relative)	\$30.92	\$17.29
Colorado- Non Denver (non relative)	\$28.36	\$14.42
Oklahoma	\$21.04	\$7.25
Utah	\$24.76	\$7.25

Underfunded Program at a Breaking Point



Pediatric Hospice Care

More than 5,600 children in NM have a complex medical problem that limits their life expectancy

1 out of 53 NM hospices have a pediatric program

Palliative care is a bridge to create pediatric hospice access

Pediatric Palliative Care Benefit



Center for Health Policy

A partnership with the New Mexico Medical Assistance Division

Medicaid Community-Based Palliative Care Benefit Proposal

GRACE CHUNG, PHD, MPH, CORY DINTER, MPH, MSC, AND AMBER DUKES, PHD, MPH
March 2024

Pediatric Palliative Care Data

881 children in NM eligible

Average PMPM pediatric costs are
\$881

ROI on pediatric palliative care
benefit ranges between \$2.1 & \$2.6
dollars for every dollar spent

2026 Legislative Recommendations

Increase Personal Care Services reimbursement rates by 15%

Add pediatric palliative care benefit to the State Plan Amendment

Thank You



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She/her

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