

Nursing Home Plus

Description of Services:

Nursing Home Plus refers to a service offered by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan to our members who have a constellation of comorbid behavioral health and physical health conditions of such severity that the member would not be accepted for traditional Nursing Home services.

In order to most effectively manage severe comorbid conditions, it is imperative that there be frequent reassessment of the member by the attending/consulting physical and behavioral physicians. Although these services are themselves reimbursable under CMS Rules, it is the greater than average need for their active patient management that the stipend the Nursing Home Plus program receives is intended to support.

Regular Nursing Facility services are expected to improve or ameliorate the individual's physical or mental condition, to prevent deterioration in health status, or to delay progression of a disease or disability, and such care must be ordered and supervised by a physician on an ongoing basis.

These same criteria are expected from Nursing Home Plus, in addition to:

Admission Criteria:

1. Multiple recent (within the past 90 days) unsuccessful efforts have been made to get the member accepted by traditional Nursing Home services. The reason for the Nursing Home refusal to accept the member must be documented and this reason must be consistent with the intent of the Nursing Home Plus service as described above.
2. The member has a severe and chronic behavioral health condition.
3. Members have sufficient physical health issues that qualify them via Pre-Admission Evaluation (PAE) or Pre-Admission Screening and Review (PASR) for Nursing Home level of care.
4. The Member is either stepping down from a higher level service or at risk of a higher level service such as, but not limited to: Inpatient mental health hospitalization or Subacute LOC.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. The primary placement barrier to a traditional Nursing Home is not the existence of a severe and/or persistent mental illness. Nursing Home plus is not intended to become a residential treatment placement for the mentally ill.
2. Alternative traditional Nursing Home services have been identified as being appropriate.

Continued Stay Criteria:

1. The member continues to require additional support to address mental health symptoms and behaviors beyond traditional Nursing Home services.
2. The provider can show documentation that the member is receiving frequent (at least monthly) reassessment by prescribing behavioral health professional.
3. The provider is demonstrating active discharge planning in conjunction with the prescribing behavioral health professional.

Discharge Criteria:

1. There has been stabilization of one or the other comorbid condition such that the member becomes a candidate for a traditional Nursing Home services.
2. One or more of the Continued Stay Criteria are no longer met.