

## Did You Know?

**Being homebound does not equate to being bedbound.**

Homebound means that it is a considerable and taxing effort to leave the house; that leaving the home interferes drastically with normal life; that absences are undertaken on an infrequent basis or are of relatively short duration. (i.e., once a week getting out to buy groceries, go to church, get hair done, or for medical reasons.)

NOTE: If you have to make an appointment with the patient to get them to stay home so you can come see them, then Medicare is not appropriate.

The documentation must support the functional limitations that create the homebound status. The home health agency will document why it's taxing to leave the home

## Who is eligible for home health services?

*Medicare pays for care in a patient's home only if all four of the following conditions are met:*

1. The patient must need intermittent skilled nursing care, PT, ST, or continuing OT.
2. The patient must be homebound.
3. The patient is under the care of a doctor who determines the need for home health care and subsequently sets up and periodically reviews a home health plan of care.
4. The home health agency is Medicare certified.

## What services are covered?

*If the conditions for eligibility are met, Medicare will pay for the following services in the patient's home when they are medically reasonable and necessary.*

1. Intermittent skilled nursing and home health aide services.
2. PT/ST/OT
3. Medical social services.
4. Medical supplies.
5. Durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, oxygen & walkers.

**Call Eastern Maine HomeCare today** and we will work with you to qualify your patients and provide in-home services. **800.439.1685**.