

Home-Based Palliative Care Program

Improving the lives of those with serious illness

A Serious Problem

Millions of Californians live with serious illness. This number will double by 2040.¹ Serious illness affects people of all ages who may live for months or years. Many will need extra care from their families and other caregivers.

That's why Blue Shield of California offers its Home-Based Palliative Care Program.

What is Palliative Care?

Home-based palliative care is specialized medical care for those who have a serious illness and who have difficulty getting their medical needs met in the doctor's office. It is provided by a specialized team who visits the member at home and works together with their other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. Members can receive this care while also receiving curative and therapeutic treatment such as chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, or surgery.

Palliative care helps keep people with serious illness at home, not in the ER or the hospital. Studies show that it reduces physical discomfort, improves quality of life, and makes living with a serious illness easier.

Fast Facts



More than **12 million Americans** live with serious illness. This number is likely to double by 2040.¹



Home-based palliative care features home visits and **24/7 access to care**.



Palliative care can **reduce unnecessary ER visits** and hospitalizations.²



75% of our providers have certification in home-based palliative care.³

Sources: ¹ Commonwealth Fund 2016

² Journal of Palliative Medicine

³ Joint Commission, ACHC, or CHAP

Blue Shield's Home-Based Palliative Care Program

Home-based palliative care is offered in all 58 California counties at no additional cost to members.

What services are covered?

Services include but are not limited to:

- Support in pain and symptom management
- Medical decision making
- Coordination of medical care
- Connection to resources
- Support for family and other caregivers

Where are these services offered?

- In-home
- Board and care
- Assisted living
- Some skilled nursing facilities
- Via phone or video in rural areas

Who provides these services?

A specially-trained team of:

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Social Workers
- Spiritual Counselors

How has it helped?

- Over 3,900 people and their families have been supported in the Blue Shield palliative care program
- All members who were/are enrolled received help with physical problems, planning, and coordinating their medical care, as well as support for them and their families/caregivers



For questions or assistance with referrals, email us at bscpalliativecare@blueshieldca.com or visit the palliative care provider connection page under patient care resources.

¹ Meier, Diane E., MD. (2014). Palliative Care Facts and Stats. Center to Advance Palliative Care.