



BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Corporate Medical Policy

Private Duty Nursing

File name: Private Duty Nursing

Origination: 3/13/2004

Last Review: 02/2011

Next Review: Standing policy. No longer requires annual review.

Effective Date: 3/31/2008

Description

Private duty nursing is skilled nursing care that takes place outside of the hospital setting. Private duty nursing is provided by a registered nurse or by a licensed practical nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse, for care that requires constant attention and a length of intervention that cannot be provided by a visiting nurse in the scope of a skilled nursing visit. These services are rendered according to a plan of care and have been certified by a physician as medically necessary.

Policy

Benefits are subject to all terms, limitations and conditions of the subscriber contract.

Prior approval may be required subject to all terms, limitations and conditions of the subscriber contract.

For New England Health Plan (NEHP) members an approved referral authorization is required.

Federal Employee Program (FEP) members may have different benefits that apply. For further information please contact FEP customer service.

The Plan reserves the right to determine whether provision of private duty nursing is more cost-effective and/or appropriate than inpatient care in a facility setting.

When service or procedure is covered

Private Duty Nursing is considered medically necessary when:

- The member has an acute condition requiring constant attention, and
- The member requires individual and continuous skilled nursing care to correct or ameliorate a medical condition, and
- The care required necessitates length of intervention that cannot be provided by a visiting nurse in the scope of a skilled nursing visit.

The Plan covers skilled nursing services by a private duty nurse outside of a hospital, subject to these limitations:

- We limit benefits for private duty nursing to \$2,000 per member, per year.
- We provide benefits only if you receive services from a Registered or Licensed Practical Nurse.
- We do not cover private duty nursing Services provided at the same time as home health care nursing services.

When service or procedure may not be covered

There are no private duty nursing benefits for:

- Homemaker services;
- Drugs or medications;
- Custodial care;
- Food or home-delivered meals; and
- Private duty nursing services provided at the same time as home health care nursing services.
- Private Duty Nursing exceeding the \$2,000.00 annual benefit limit.
- Private Duty Nursing benefits when prior approval is not obtained.
- Private Duty Nursing that does not meet the above criteria of medical necessity

Billing and Coding/Physician Documentation Information

To review Private Duty Nursing for medical necessity the following information is required:

- Physician's and/or health care provider's plan of treatment, including anticipated timeframe that the service will be needed;
- Predicted outcomes (therapeutic benefit);
- Physician's involvement in supervising use of the private duty nursing;
- Detailed description of the member's clinical and functional status so that a determination of medical necessity can be made.

See Attachment I

Eligible Providers

Registered Nurses (R.N.)
Licensed Practical Nurses (L.P.N.)

Policy Implementation/Update information

Annual review 1/2007 minor language changes made to match current certificate language
Reviewed and approved by the BCBSVT Clinical Advisory Committee March 2007.
01/2008 Annual review, no substantive changes. New format changes only. Reviewed by CAC
03/2008
02/2010 Annual review, no substantive changes. Reviewed by CAC 05/2010, Clarified definition
07/16/2010.
12/2010 Annual review, no substantive changes. Approved by committee to become a standing
policy that no longer requires annual review

Approved by BCBSVT Medical Policy Committee: Date Approved

Antonietta Sculimbrene MD
Chair, Medical Policy Committee

Attachment I: Private Duty Nursing

Covered HCPCS and CPT codes:

S9123 Nursing care, in the home; by registered nurse, per hour

S9124 Nursing care, in the home; by licensed practical nurse, per hour