# Access Considerations for Home Infusion of Intravenous Therapies

# WHAT IS HOME INFUSION THERAPY?

Home infusion therapy involves the intravenous (IV) administration of drugs or biologics to an individual at home.<sup>1</sup> It offers an alternative to receiving infusions in a physician's office, hospital outpatient department, or ambulatory infusion suite.<sup>2</sup> The components needed to perform home infusion include<sup>1,3</sup>:



Home infusion may:

- Provide scheduling flexibility
- Eliminate the need for travel to appointments
- Enable patients to receive treatment in a familiar setting

Home infusion requires nursing and pharmacy services, arranged by home infusion or specialty pharmacy providers.<sup>1,3,4</sup>



Nurses visit the patient's home to administer and monitor the therapy<sup>1,3</sup>



Between visits, nurses and pharmacists provide patient education, care planning, care coordination, and care management<sup>1,3</sup>

### Health plan coverage of home infusion depends on the patient's benefit design.<sup>4</sup>

Please check a patient's medical and pharmacy benefits coverage or contact OneSource<sup>™</sup> or your Field Reimbursement Manager for assistance if you are considering home infusion as an option for a patient. **Call 1.888.765.4747 or visit AlexionOneSource.com** 

# WHO HAS COVERAGE FOR HOME INFUSION THERAPY?

Coverage and out-of-pocket (OOP) costs for IV home infusion, including the medication, equipment, supplies, and nursing services, vary by health plan type (see table below and tables on pages 3 and 4).<sup>3</sup> Specific site-of-care requirements are outlined in a patient's benefit design.<sup>3</sup>

If a patient is able to receive home infusion through their health plan, the provider should check whether the home infusion vendor is contracted by the patient's health plan.<sup>4</sup> The health plan may also require that the IV medication be dispensed by a contracted specialty pharmacy.



The decision to receive IV infusions at home depends on a physician's assessment of the patient *and* the benefit design of the patient's health plan.<sup>3,4</sup>

#### **Commercial Coverage of IV Home Infusion**

Commercial health plans may offer the most comprehensive coverage of home infusion for patients, and in general, have the lowest OOP costs.<sup>3,4</sup> Coverage of the IV medication, along with the equipment, supplies, and nursing services, typically occurs under the medical benefit.<sup>3</sup>

Plan Type	Coverage	OOP Costs
Commercial <sup>3-6</sup>	Medication: Usually covered under the medical benefit, but can also be covered under pharmacy benefit Treatment administration: Nursing services, supplies, and equipment covered under the medical benefit	Medication + treatment administration: Deductible + copay and/or coinsurance until OOP maximum is reached <i>Note</i> : If a patient uses a copay savings program and the plan has a copay accumulator program, the portion of the copay paid by the manufacturer may not count toward the patient's deductible or OOP maximum. As a result, it may take longer for the patient to reach their deductible or
		OOP maximum

#### **Medicare Coverage of IV Home Infusion**

Medicare coverage of home infusion may be more fragmented and limited, with higher OOP costs.<sup>3,6</sup> Coverage depends on the type of Medicare plan. The medication, nursing services, and equipment and supplies may each be covered by different parts of Medicare.<sup>3,6</sup>

The National Home Infusion Association (NHIA) estimates that 17 to 24 million Medicare beneficiaries do not have access to a comprehensive home infusion benefit.<sup>3</sup>

Plan Type	Coverage	OOP Costs
Medicare Part B <sup>4,6-9</sup> (fee-for-service Medicare)	Medication + equipment + supplies: Coverage of a limited number of infused drugs and associated equipment and supplies for certain indications when delivered via an infusion pump. Coverage is under the DME benefit. For a list of covered drugs, visit www.cms.gov/files/document/mm11880.pdf Nursing services: Covered under the Medicare Home Infusion Therapy (HIT) benefit. Limited to medications covered under the DME benefit	<b>Medication + treatment administration:</b> Deductible + 20% coinsurance <i>Note:</i> Patients may purchase a Medigap plan to help cover the 20% coinsurance
Medicare Part D <sup>3,4,6,8-11</sup> (fee-for-service Medicare)	Medication: Covers most of the infused medications not covered by Part B Treatment administration: Nursing services, equipment, and supplies not covered by Part D. If also not covered by Part B, Part C may cover a portion <i>Note</i> : Patients with limited incomes and resources can enroll in Extra Help, a program that helps them with Part D OOP costs	Medication: Deductible + 25% coinsurance until catastrophic coverage reached + 5% coinsurance after catastrophic coverage reached Treatment administration: Deductible + 20% coinsurance if covered under Part B; typically deductible + copay and/or coinsurance until OOP maximum is reached if covered under Part C; 100% OOP if no Part B or Part C coverage Note: For high-dollar medications, patients quickly reach the OOP maximum of \$7,050 for catastrophic coverage, and continue to pay a portion of the medication cost (5%)
Medicare Part C <sup>3,4,6,11</sup> (Medicare Advantage)	<b>Medication:</b> May be covered under Part D <b>Treatment administration:</b> Nursing services, supplies, and equipment often covered under Part C when home infusion benefit is modeled after commercial plans	<b>Medication + treatment administration:</b> When modeled after commercial plans, typically deductible + copay and/or coinsurance until OOP maximum is reached

# OOP costs for IV home infusion therapy can be prohibitive for certain Medicare patients.<sup>6</sup>

If you are considering home infusion as an option for a patient, contact OneSource™ or your Field Reimbursement Manager for assistance in determining the site of care that aligns best with the patient's benefit design. **Call 1.888.765.4747 or visit AlexionOneSource.com** 

#### Medicaid Coverage of IV Home Infusion

Most states provide coverage of IV home infusion for Medicaid patients. Coverage can vary by state.<sup>3</sup>

Plan Type	Coverage	OOP Costs
Medicaid <sup>3,4,6</sup>	<b>Medication:</b> Covers FDA-approved drugs with some exceptions. Coverage under the medical or pharmacy benefit is state dependent	<b>Medication + treatment administration:</b> Varies by state
	<b>Treatment administration:</b> Nursing services, equipment, and supplies typically covered under the medical benefit when home infusion is considered medically necessary	

#### **HOW ALEXION CAN HELP**

Alexion can help you understand a patient's coverage and OOP costs for IV home infusion therapy.



**CONTACT** your Alexion Field Reimbursement Manager who can provide site-of-care education, including site options based on the patient's insurance coverage and requirements.



**ENROLL** a patient in **OneSource**<sup>™</sup> for help in understanding insurance benefits, navigating home infusion provider options, and identifying financial assistance programs.



AlexionOneSource.com 1.888.765.4747

FDA, US Food and Drug Administration.

References: 1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Home infusion therapy services. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/ Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/Home-Infusion-Therapy/Overview 2. Counce J. Home infusion's expanding role in optimizing site of care. Published May/June 2019. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://nhia.org/documents/CE\_May\_June\_2019.pdf 3. National Home Infusion Association. About home and specialty infusion. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://nhia.org/about-infusion-therapy/ 4. National Home Infusion Association. Home infusion basics: key principles for physicians. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://nhia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Home\_Infusion\_Basics\_for\_the\_Physician\_PPT.pdf 5. Baker A, Parks S. Understanding copay accumulators: who really benefits? National Infusion Center Association. Accessed March 29, 2022. https:// infusioncenter.org/ understanding-copay-accumulators-who-really-benefits/ 6. National Home Infusion Association. Payers. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://nhia.org/reimbursement\_training\_center\_payers/7. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Billing for home infusion therapy services on or after January 1, 2021. Updated December 31, 2020. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm11880.pdf 8. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Home infusion therapy services benefit beginning January 2021: frequently asked questions. Updated September 2021. Accessed March 29, 2022. https://www.cms.gov/files/document/home-infusion-therapy-services-benefit-beginning-2021-frequently-asked-questions.pdf 9. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicare & You 2022. Accessed April 28, 2022. https://www.medicare.gov/Pubs/pdf/10050-medicare-and-you.pdf 10. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Announcement of calendar year (CY) 2022 Medicare Advantage (MA) capitation rates and Part C and Part D payment policies. January 15, 2021. Accessed May 23, 2022. https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2022-announcement.pdf 11. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. Medicare Plus Blue home infusion therapy. October 2020. Accessed May 23, 2022. https://www.bcbsm.com/content/dam/public/Providers/Documents/ help/home-infusion-therapy-ppo.pdf

Alexion and the OneSource logo are registered trademarks of Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and OneSource is a trademark of Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. © 2022 Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

