Home Health Services Available Under Medicare

This is the fifth in a ries of articles by J. C. Oilister, social security istrict manager in Long each, on how medicare ill work. The information based on "Your Medicare andbook," the guide that as issued to all medicare

Some communities have

home health agencies that provide visiting nurse services and other home care or therapy to persons confined at home. Your doctor or the people at our social security office can tell you if your community provides such home health services. Ho me health services are covered only if your doctor has determined that you are in need of this type of care.

The hospital insurance program will pay for up to 100 home health visits by nurses or other health workers from qualified home health agencies during the 365 days fol-

lowing your release from a hospital (after a stay of at least 3 days) or from an extended care facility.

HEALTH SERVICES

Home health services are covered by medicare if your doctor makes arrangements for this care within 14 days after your discharge from the hospital or extended care facility. The care or services you get must be a continuation of the care you got while you were in the hospital. In other words, covered home health visits are for the same illness you had while you were hospitalized.

Part-time nursing care.
Physical, occupational, or speech therapy.
Services of home health aides (in connection with your treatment).
Medical social services.
Medical supplies, except drugs.
Use of medical appliances.
Any of the rehabilitation services outside your home which require equipment that cannot be brought to your home.

SERVICES NOT COVERED Physicians' services (your medical insurance will help

to pay your doctor bills).

Prescription drugs.
Full time nursing care.
Personal comfort items
(TV rental, "companion"
services, etc.).
Services furnished by a
home health agency operated
primarily for the treatment
of mental illness.
General housekeeping services.

ices.
Meals delivered to your

Meals delivered to your home.

CASE HISTORY EXAMPLE

Mrs. A, fell down the stirs in her home and was hospitalized for 23 days. At the end of that time, she was able to

be up and around some, but her doctor felt she was not yet ready to go home. So he had Mrs. A. transferred to the convalescent section of the hospital Mrs. A. was there for 20 days and was discharged, because she was well enough to be home, and the "home" at mo sphere would be good for her. However, the doctor felt she should have certain services, the established a plan with a participating home health agency which could provide the services of a qualified part-time nurse, a qualified physical therapist, and a qual-

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ified medical social worker.
Each of these people aided
Mrs. A. under the dhection
of her own doctor, and each
of them made 31 visits to her
home over the next 9 months
—that made a total of 93
home health visits.

home health visits.

COST FOR SERVICES

After the first \$40 for inpatient hospital care, Mrs. A.
was only responsible for the
doctor bill (and medical insurance helped pay that). She
paid nothing for the 20 days
in the convalescent section of
the hospital, and nothing for
the 93 home visits.

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