

# A Guide to Nursing Services in Ohio



For Ohioans who have home care medical needs



## What are Nursing Services?

Nursing services are health care services provided to people who have medical conditions that require a nursing specialty. Some people who have short-term or long-term medical needs may be eligible for nursing services at home.

If your doctor writes a prescription for home care nursing, the next step is to understand the possible services available and how to get them. A doctor's prescription alone does not guarantee services.

Some examples of home care nursing services are:

- Help putting in catheters
- Care of a tracheostomy tube or ventilator
- Care for an unstable G-tube (gastrostomy tube)
- Perform lung and neurological assessments

**This document provides an overview of the options available in Ohio for those seeking home care nursing services.**

# What are My Options for Nursing Services?



**There are different ways to pay for nursing services at home.**

- 1** Private Health Insurance
- 2** Ohio Medicaid
  - 2A** Healthchek
  - 2B** Ohio Home Care Waiver
  - 2C** Ohio Medicaid State Plan Home Health Service
- 3** Ohio Developmental Disabilities Waiver Nursing Care Services
- 4** Medicare and Passport



# 1

## Private Health Insurance

If you have private health insurance it may include home care nursing coverage. Contact your insurance company.

### ASK YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY:

- Am I eligible for home care nursing?
- Is there an out-of-pocket expense?
- Is there a limit to hours that can be provided?
- What is the process to get services started?

Note: It is possible to have both private health insurance coverage and Medicaid. If an individual is eligible for Medicaid, Medicaid will be the secondary payer.

### APPLY FOR SERVICES

- Through the Ohio Department of Insurance:  
[bit.ly/PV-insurance](https://bit.ly/PV-insurance)
- Private insurance also could include care provided through the:
  - Veteran’s Administration: [bit.ly/VA-insurance](https://bit.ly/VA-insurance)
  - Military Family Insurance: [www.tricare.mil](https://www.tricare.mil)

# 2

## Ohio Medicaid

Medicaid is a health care program for Ohioans who are children, pregnant women, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Some people qualify based on income, disability or medical need.

### APPLY FOR SERVICES

- Online at [benefits.ohio.gov](https://benefits.ohio.gov)
- In person or by mail at your county Job and Family Services office (find the contact information at [bit.ly/JFS-County-Directory](https://bit.ly/JFS-County-Directory))
- Call the consumer hotline: 1-800-324-8680

The following programs are considered Ohio Medicaid Programs and are managed by Ohio Medicaid:

**2A**

**Healthchek**  
(Link to 2A)

**2B**

**Ohio Home  
Care Waiver**  
(Link to 2B)

**2C**

**Ohio  
Medicaid  
State Plan**  
(Link to 2C)

## Healthchek

Healthchek is Ohio's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Healthchek provides additional services to children if they are Medicaid eligible.

### MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF YOU:

- Are younger than age 21
- Have a need for medically necessary treatment services for either physical or mental health
- Are eligible for Medicaid. You can apply for Ohio Medicaid several ways:
  - Online at [benefits.ohio.gov](https://benefits.ohio.gov)
  - In person or by mail at your county Job and Family Services office (find the contact information at [bit.ly/JFS-County-Directory](https://bit.ly/JFS-County-Directory))
  - Call the consumer hotline: 1-800-324-8680

### APPLY FOR SERVICES

For more information about Healthchek including ways to apply, visit: <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/static/Families,%20Individuals/Programs/HealthchekFAQ.pdf>.

## Ohio Home Care Waiver

This waiver allows individuals with chronic medical conditions and disabilities to receive services in their homes and communities instead of nursing facilities, hospitals or rehabilitation facilities.

A chronic medical condition means that a person has a continual disease or medical condition that:

- Keeps them from doing most things for themselves
- They need medical care most of the time

The person receiving services must be 59 years of age or younger, and

- Assessed to determine the level of care they need
- Assigned a case manager to coordinate services

### APPLY FOR THE OHIO HOME CARE WAIVER

- Contact your county Job and Family Services office: Here is the list:  
[bit.ly/JFS-County-Directory](https://bit.ly/JFS-County-Directory)
- Call the consumer hotline: 1-800-324-8680

## Ohio Medicaid State Plan

Ohio's Medicaid State Plan services cover a wide range of needs including doctor visits, prescriptions, medical equipment at home, dental and vision services, pregnancy care, and mental health services. Ohio Medicaid State Plan has two nursing benefits:

- Home Health Services
- Private Duty Nursing (PDN)

### STATE PLAN SERVICES

- Must be provided by a Medicare Certified Home Health agency
- Must be “medically necessary” and a treating physician must write a prescription for services
- Require a face-to-face visit (in person or by video)\* with a qualified medical professional such as: physician, advanced practice nurse, or a physician assistant working with a qualified physician
- Has limitations to hours for home health services and/or PDN
- Has a post-hospital benefit that offers an increase in hours for up to 60 days after discharge
- May be available if you are enrolled in a managed care plan. Please contact the person who coordinates your managed care plan for eligibility

\* A face-to-face visit must be held within the 90 days prior to the home health care start-of-care date, or within 30 days following the start-of-care date (if in an emergency).



# 3

## Ohio Developmental Disabilities Waiver Nursing Care Services

Developmental Disability (DD) Waivers are one way to pay for services that support people with developmental disabilities, if eligible. In Ohio, waivers are based on the person's needs. All waivers come with an Ohio Medicaid card which means that a person has access to state plan home health nursing, including private duty nursing.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) manages three DD waivers: the Individual Options (IO) waiver, the Level One waiver and the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver.

**The IO waiver is the only DD waiver that offers nursing as a service.**

Some people with the SELF waiver or Level One waiver may qualify for state plan nursing services through the Ohio Medicaid card.

### MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR IO WAIVER IF YOU:

- Are eligible for Developmental Disability (DD) services and have other needs
- Have limited income and assets (parent's income is waived if you are under age 18)
- Have a certain level of care that requires more supports for you to live and work at a place of your choice

(continued on next page)

## IO WAIVER NURSING

With an IO waiver, a Service and Support Administrator (SSA) from the County Board of DD will help you determine your need for nursing and other services.

- The SSA must meet face-to-face to complete a Nursing Task Inventory (NTI).
- A state nurse from DODD also may need to meet with you to make sure that a thorough and accurate inventory is completed.
- These services require prior authorization by DODD of your needs and documentation that nursing services are needed.
- Some nursing tasks may be assigned to an unlicensed, trained person who is supervised by a licensed nurse. This is called Delegated Nursing. Some examples of delegated nursing are:
  - Certain types of catheterizations
  - Insulin Injections

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- See Delegated Nursing Tasks:  
<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4723-13>
- Contact your local county board of developmental disabilities: [bit.ly/Find-Your-Local-County-Board](http://bit.ly/Find-Your-Local-County-Board)
- Disability Rights Ohio has a helpful fact sheet about eligibility for DD services at [bit.ly/Eligibility-for-DDServices](http://bit.ly/Eligibility-for-DDServices)

# 4

## Medicare

Medicare is a federal health care program for people over the age of 65 or who are considered disabled. Nursing services may be available through Medicare.

### APPLY FOR SERVICES

- Through the US Social Security Office:  
[www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare)
- Ohio Department of Insurance:  
[bit.ly/Medicare-OhioDI](http://bit.ly/Medicare-OhioDI)
- My Care Ohio:  
<https://medicaid.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/medicaid/families-and-individuals/citizen-programs-and-initiatives/mycareohio/mycare-ohio>

## Passport Waiver

Ohio residents should contact their **local area agency on aging** to apply or call the Department of Aging at 1-866-243-5678.

[https://www.payingforseniorcare.com/find\\_aging\\_agencies\\_adrc\\_aaa](https://www.payingforseniorcare.com/find_aging_agencies_adrc_aaa)

## SCENARIOS

### Individual Options Waiver (IO)

David has an IO waiver which pays for his day program services, home modifications, transportation, shared living services, communication devices, wheelchair van modifications, and some delivered pureed

**See 3  
for details**

(click here  
to link)

meals. David became eligible for Medicaid at the same time he was approved for his IO waiver.

David's Medicaid pays for Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services. Even though his PDN is paid by Medicaid,

DODD is responsible for assessing and determining if he is approved for nursing services. Annually, David's SSA will compile the nursing redetermination paperwork. This includes completing the Nursing Task Inventory (NTI) and sending it to the state nurse at DODD for review. Once the state nurse determines David is eligible for PDN services, they will also determine how many hours are required to meet his needs.

### State Plan Nursing

Jamar and his family are eligible for Medicaid State Plan due to their income. Jamar was in a car accident and was in the hospital for 120 days. Before leaving the hospital, his doctor determined that he will have Long Term Care needs. His doctor wrote a prescription for Home Care Nursing. Since Jamar

**See 2C  
for details**

(click here  
to link)

already had Medicaid, he contacted the Medicaid Hotline for information on how to obtain Home Care Nursing Services. The Hotline referred Jamar to the appropriate agency for an assessment.

## Home Care Waiver

Hiram is a 24-year-old male who lives at home. He was born with a rare syndrome and his medical needs continue to increase as he gets older.

**See 2B  
for details**  
(click here  
to link)

Because Hiram's medical needs have increased, he contacted the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to see if he could be enrolled in the Home Care waiver. Hiram is eligible for this program and he receives 8 hours of Personal Care Attendant services a day and receives 40 hours of Private Duty Nursing services a week.

## Healthchek

Amar is a six-year-old boy who has a diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy. Amar uses a wheelchair and receives physical therapy and occupational therapy at school. Amar's team believes that he would benefit from additional therapies outside of what the school

provides. Because Amar is eligible for Medicaid due to income, Amar's family contacted their local Job and Family Services to request a way to pay for the additional services. Job and Family services was able to work with Amar's family to get the extra services he needs through Healthchek.

**See 2A  
for details**  
(click here  
to link)

## Private Insurance

LaTonya was born with a seizure disorder and Osteogenesis Imperfecta and upon coming home from the neonatal intensive care unit the doctor wrote a prescription for Home Care Nursing Services. LaTonya's family contacted their private insurance to see if the Home Care Nursing Services would be covered. LaTonya is eligible and receives her services through her parent's private insurance program.

**See 1  
for details**

(click here  
to link)

## Medicare

Iris is 65 years old and has Medicare. She recently had a stay in the rehabilitation facility after having been released from the hospital and wants to return home. Iris and her family worked with the social worker at the rehabilitation facility to find an agency that would provide continued home health services such as physical therapy and nursing services to make sure that Iris could maintain her ability to be at home and not return to a nursing facility.

**See 4  
for details**

(click here  
to link)

## QUESTIONS?

Remember to ask the professionals you know to learn what nursing services are available at home or in the community. If you need help understanding nursing services, please contact your case worker, care coordinator or Ohio Family to Family.

**Ohio Family to Family  
Health Information Center**

**Website:** [www.ohiof2f.org](http://www.ohiof2f.org)

**Phone:** 844-644-6323

**Email:** [ohiof2f@cchmc.org](mailto:ohiof2f@cchmc.org)



## FILING AN APPEAL?

The information in this guide may not apply to each person's situation. It is important to know that you have a right to appeal decisions.

- **Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities:**
  - [bit.ly/DDBoard-appeal](http://bit.ly/DDBoard-appeal)
- **Ohio Department of Medicaid:**
  - [bit.ly/Ohio-Medicaid-Flow-Chart-appeal](http://bit.ly/Ohio-Medicaid-Flow-Chart-appeal)
  - [bit.ly/Ohio-Medicaid-appeal](http://bit.ly/Ohio-Medicaid-appeal)
- **Medicare:** [bit.ly/Medicare-appeal](http://bit.ly/Medicare-appeal)
- **Private Health Insurance:** [bit.ly/PVInsurance-appeal](http://bit.ly/PVInsurance-appeal)

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**Ohio Department of Medicaid**

**Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council**

**Ohio Family to Family**

**Family leaders**



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