

Hospice Benefit Changes to AHCCCS Plans Summary

as of January 15, 2010

Effective July 1, 2009 State AHCCCS eliminated the hospice benefit for the Acute/FFS members and kept the benefit for their LTC/FFS members only. Effective January 1, 2010 all the State AHCCCS contracted Acute plans followed by eliminating the hospice benefit or changing the benefit based on age.

The following summary has been assembled by AHPCO on various plans to show the changes that were made. AHPCO is providing this for informational purposes only, Members are encouraged to contact their plan(s) directly for more information or specifics.

Acute Capitated Plan with a hospice benefit:

- Health Choice AZ – effective 1/1/2010 for members 21 years of age and under
- Mercy Care Acute – effective 1/1/2010 for members 21 years of age and under
- Maricopa Health Plan/UPH – effective 1/1/2010 for members 18 years of age and under

Acute Capitated Plans who Eliminated the Hospice Benefit

- Bridgeway Acute Plan effective 1/1/2010
- Phoenix Health Plan effective 1/31/2010

Acute Capitated Plans with a hospice benefit

- APIPA/Arizona Physicians IPA – effective 1/1/2010 does have a hospice benefit for non-contracted providers for members 18 years of age and under.

Acute Capitated Plans who Eliminated the Hospice Benefit

- American Indian Health – effective 1/1/2010
- Care 1st Arizona – effective 1/1/2010

All the AHCCCS LTC plans will continue covering hospice services as per State AHCCCS guidelines as it is still a covered service for these members.

AHCCCS LTC Contracted Plans:

- Bridgeway Health Solutions
- Evercare
- Mercy Care LTC
- Pinal Gila – only if the patient resides in Pinal County
- SCAN

Phoenix Health Plan has given 4 options for their previously covered hospice patients:

1. Your hospice can keep the patients on service—and not be reimbursed.
2. You may try to transfer the patient to a different Hospice service.
3. You can get orders for a skilled home care evaluation and refer to our contracted HC Agencies:
 - a. Professional Care (for skilled home care and therapies): 602-395-5114
 - b. Preferred Home Care (for DME or skilled home care): 480-446-9010
 - c. Option 1 (for enteral feedings): 480-883-1188
4. Have the patient or family engage into their telephonic Case Management Program.

Note: If the hospice keeps the member active, the meds will be covered through their contracted pharmacies.