

# BASIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Current as of August 29, 2024

California law requires health plans to cover “basic health care services.” See below for definitions in state law. Plans must only provide services when they are medically necessary.



## Hospice

*Palliative care and services to alleviate the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual discomforts of a person experiencing the last phases of life due to terminal illness. Also includes support for their primary care giver and family.*



## Preventive health

*Includes regular health checkups; family planning services; prenatal care; vision and hearing tests; pediatric immunizations; sexually transmitted disease testing; cancer screens; health education.*



## Outpatient hospital services

*Also referred to as ambulatory care services, includes diagnostic and treatment services; physical, speech, and occupational therapy; other services that can be delivered in outpatient setting.*



## Home health services

*Those prescribed or directed by physician that are provided at the patient's home. Includes diagnostic and treatment services, including those provided by licensed nurses or home health aides.*



## Physician services

*Services provided by doctors of medicine (MDs) or osteopathy (DOs). May also include dentists, nurses, clinical psychologists, social workers, pharmacists, and other health care professionals.*



## Inpatient hospital services

*Short-term general hospital services, including meals, medications, nursing care, use of operating services, and other diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services as appropriate.*



## Emergency health care

*Must be available 24/7. Includes ambulance services and active labor of a pregnant person.*



## Laboratory services

*Diagnostic services, diagnostic and therapeutic radiological services, including electrocardiography (EKG or ECG) and electroencephalography (EEG).*