



HOME HEALTH GLOSSARY

Activities of Daily Living (ADLs): includes basic activities of daily life. Examples of ADLs include: bathing, dressing, eating, moving around, toileting, and walking. A home health aide, home health care nurse, or custodial care individual can assist with these activities.

Direct Care Worker's: individual employed by a home care agency or referred by a home care registry to provide home care services to a consumer.

Home care services: the term encompasses the following activities:

(i) Personal care - The term includes, but is not limited to, assistance with self-administered medications, feeding, oral, skin and mouth care, shaving, assistance with ambulation, bathing, hair care and grooming, dressing, toileting, and transfer activities.

(ii) Assistance with instrumental ADLs.

(iii) Companionship services.

(iv) Respite care.

(The difference between an LPN and an RN is the amount of education and comprehensive examination required for a license]

(v) **Specialized care** - Nonskilled services/activities unique to the consumer's care needs that facilitate the consumer's health, safety and welfare, and ability to live independently.

Home Health Aide (HHA): A nonprofessional person who has completed a minimum of 60 hours of classroom instruction prior to or during the first 3 months of employment. The term HHAs assist patients to achieve maximum self-reliance, principles of nutrition and meal preparation, the aging process and emotional problems of illness, changes in patient's condition that should be reported.

Home Health Services: skilled services/activities by an organization or part thereof staffed and equipped to provide skilled nursing and at least 1 therapeutic service—physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, medical social services or home health aides—to disabled, aged, injured or sick persons on a part-time or intermittent basis in their place of residence. The term includes an agency that also provides other health-related services to protect and maintain persons in their own homes.

Homebound: confined to home: Because of illness or injury, need the aid of supportive devices such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers; the use of special transportation; or the assistance of another person to leave their place of residence; Have a condition such that leaving his or her home is medically contraindicated or There must exist a normal inability to leave home **AND** Leaving home must require a considerable and taxing effort.



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Medical Social Worker (MSW): A person who has a master's degree from a school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, and has 1 year of social work experience in a health care setting performs assessment of the social and emotional factors related to the beneficiary's illness, the need for care, their response to treatment, and adjustment to care, the relationship of the medical and nursing requirements to the home situation, financial resources, and the community resources available.

Occupational therapist (OT): A person who is currently licensed as an occupational therapist in this Commonwealth under the Occupational Therapy Act. Provide evaluation and treatment to individuals living with mental, physical, and/or developmental disabilities and help them perform daily tasks. Occupational therapists assist a broad age range of individuals with a variety of disabilities.

Occupational therapist assistant (OTA): A person who is currently licensed as an occupational therapist assistant in this Commonwealth, under the Occupational Therapy Act. OTAs assist OTs in carrying out their treatment plan.

Physical Therapist (PT): A person who is currently licensed as a physical therapist in this Commonwealth under the Physical Therapy Practice Act. Provide evaluation and treatment for the preservation, enhancement, or restoration of movement and physical function impaired or threatened by disability, injury. PTs are responsible for supervision of PTAs.

Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA): A person who is currently licensed as a physical therapist assistant in this Commonwealth under the Physical Therapy Practice Act. PTAs assist PTs in carrying out their treatment plan.

Skilled Nursing Service: intermittent, skilled services that require the skills of a registered nurse, or a licensed practical (vocational) nurse under the supervision of a registered nurse, must be reasonable and necessary to the treatment of the patient's illness or injury as discussed in and must be intermittent.

Registered Nurse (RN): A person licensed to practice professional nursing under the Professional Nursing Law. Perform skilled nursing services to patients with illnesses or injury. RNs are responsible for supervision of LPNs and Home Health Aides.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN): Licensed Practical Nurses are licensed nurses that are required to pass a licensing examination known as the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nurse).

Social work assistant: A person who has a baccalaureate degree in social work, psychology, sociology or other field related to social work, or 2 years of social work experience in a health care setting. Assists MSW in evaluation and treatment of social needs.

Speech pathologist/audiologist (SLP/ST): A person who meets 1 of the following:



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1. The education and experience requirements for a Certificate of Clinical Competence in the appropriate area—speech pathology or audiology—granted by the American Speech and Hearing Association.
2. The educational requirements for certification and is in the process of accumulating the supervised experience required for certification.

SLPs evaluate, treat and help to prevent verbal communication and swallowing disorders in patients.