

Nurses Fees

Only a registered nurse, including a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist or a licensed physiotherapist will be reimbursed. Licensed practical nurses are not covered.

Nurse-Anesthetist. A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist (CRNA) is a trained nurse who specialized in anesthesia and possesses documented capability for giving anesthetics. Benefits for the services of a CRNA during a surgery performed at an ambulatory surgery facility or in the course of a hospital confinement will be covered under the anesthesia administration provisions of a medical plan.

Problem Areas. When paying nursing charges, the examiner should keep in mind these rules:

- Transportation costs are not covered.
- Meals and out-of-pocket charges of nurse are not covered.
- Physician must clearly establish need for three-shift nursing.
- Nurse used for aide, sitter or nurse assistance would not be covered.
- Care must always be medically necessary and recommended by a physician.

A nurse related to the covered person-or who resides in the household of the covered person is not eligible. Nursing care may be either in-hospital, at home or in an outpatient facility.

Nursing care at home may be a viable alternative to in-hospital care-premature infants or a ventilator or intravenous administration of drugs. Care must be taken by the examiner to see that such services are not abused with overutilization or creative billing. At-home nursing is quite expensive.

If administering nursing care, certain rules, if followed, will generally prove to be most helpful:

- Precertify all private duty nursing care.
- Require all nurse billings and notes.
- Authorize only one week at a time.

The examiner is alerted to certain state laws relating to at-home nursing care; such laws should be known and followed.

The nurse will generally be able to perform some or all of these services.

1. Application of the nursing process in:
 - a. Assessment of patients
 - b. Planning of patient care
 - c. Implementing the patient care plan
 - d. Evaluating patient care.
2. Providing for the emotional needs of patients
3. Counseling and providing health teaching to patients
4. Providing for the safety of patients
5. Performing nursing procedures for which the nurse is prepared, including but not limited to:

- a. Meeting hygiene and grooming needs
 - b. Providing for nutritional needs
 - c. Providing comfort measures to patients
 - d. Participating in the patient's exercise program
 - e. Assisting with rehabilitation of patient
 - f. Administering oxygen
 - g. Changing dressing (bandages)
 - h. Inserting and irrigating urinary catheters
 - i. Administering medications
 - j. Carrying out treatments as prescribed by the attending physicians.
6. Admitting and discharging patients
 7. Receiving and transcribing doctor's orders
 8. Assisting with physical examinations
 9. Notifying appropriate persons promptly of unusual reactions and changes in condition
 10. Recording all pertinent information
 11. Obtaining specimens
 12. Receiving and giving reports
 13. Safeguarding equipment and supplies
 14. Providing post-mortem care
 15. Inserting and irrigating Levine tubes
 16. Suctioning endotracheal (with or without benefit of an endotracheal tube)
 17. Drawing blood for laboratory testing
 18. Assisting with hyperalimentation
 19. Performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

NOTE: A nurse possessing the education and proven clinical competence may perform certain treatments/procedures only if the institution's policies, nursing agency's and state's regulatory acts allow their performance. Only nurses with documented skill in performing these functions may start intravenous fluids and blood transfusions.