Professional nursing services

Professional nursing services support you in understanding and caring for your medical needs. Under this service, a nurse will come to your home and either directly care for your medical needs or provide supervision to your caregivers to ensure you are receiving proper care.

This service includes three types of nursing services:

SKILLED NURSING

Skilled nursing is a short-term treatment that a health care provider orders when you need nursing care for an ongoing condition that is stable and chronic. These are nursing tasks that you can't do yourself and that can't be delegated to a nursing assistant or home care aide. This can include, but is not limited to giving injections, managing intravenous (IV) lines and providing sterile wound care.

NURSE DELEGATION

Nurse delegation allows specific nursing tasks to be delegated by a licensed nurse to a trained nursing assistant or home care aide. Nurse delegators also provide oversight of those tasks to make sure they are performed correctly. This can include, but is not limited to, oral and topical medication administration, gastronomy tube feedings, simple wound care and blood glucose monitoring.

PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

Private duty nursing allows you to receive skilled nursing care for a complex medical need at home instead of going to a hospital or facility. If you need private duty nursing, it's because you rely on daily mechanical treatments such as a ventilator, complex respiratory support, a tracheostomy, or intravenous (IV) or parenteral medications or nutrition.

CONTACT

Phone
844-CARE4WA (844-227-3492)

Email or chat
wacaresfund.wa.gov/contact

Language assistance is available.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

If you are unsure which nursing service might be right for you, reach out to your health care providers to help you determine which service might be the best fit for your health care needs.

Skilled nursing does not cover immediate care for sudden illnesses or injuries, and some nursing tasks may be covered by your medical insurance through a home health benefit. Connect with your insurance provider to see if this is included in your coverage.

In nurse delegation, for your health and safety, state law requires that specific rules are followed by both the delegating nurse and the caregiver who performs the task. Because of this, not all tasks can be delegated. If you are receiving in-home care from a home care agency, they can help you determine if nurse delegation is necessary.

PROVIDERS

All providers for skilled nursing and private duty nursing are either registered nurses or licensed practical nurses. Only registered nurses may provide nurse delegation services. Your provider may be an independent nurse or an agency with nursing staff, including home health agencies and health home care coordination organizations.

You can get these services from any registered WA Cares provider. We require all providers to meet minimum qualifications. You can find a provider at waclc.org/wacares.

RATES AND BILLING

Professional nursing services have a maximum hourly rate determined for each service and are billed in 15-minute increments.

Cost of services may vary based on where you live and your care needs. You and your provider will agree on rates. You can find maximum rates and typical costs at wacaresfund.wa.gov/rates.