

# ■ ■ Hospice Levels of Care ■ ■

## **1. Routine Home Care:**

A routine home care day is a day on which an individual who has elected to receive hospice care is at home.

## **2. General Inpatient:**

A general inpatient care day is a day on which an individual who has elected hospice care receives general inpatient care in an inpatient facility for pain control or acute or chronic symptom management which cannot be managed in other settings.

### **Examples of GIP level of care:**

- Pain, despite changes to medications
- Nausea and vomiting, despite changes to medications
- Terminal agitation
- Medication adjustment that must be monitored 24/7
- Bleeding that won't stop
- Unresolved bowel issues such as constipation or diarrhea

## **3. Continuous Home Care:**

A continuous home care day is a day on which an individual who has elected to receive hospice care is not in an inpatient facility and receives hospice care consisting predominantly of nursing care on a continuous basis at home. Home health aide or homemaker services, or both, may also be provided on a continuous basis. Continuous home care is only furnished during brief periods of crisis and only as necessary to maintain the terminally ill patient at home.

## **4. Inpatient Respite Care:**

An inpatient respite care day is a day on which the individual who has elected hospice care receives care in an approved facility on a short-term basis for respite. Medicare reimburses for no more than five consecutive days at a time.