



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 1075**

LCO No. 4554



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Telehealth" means the mode of delivering health care or other  
3 health services via information and communication technologies to  
4 facilitate the diagnosis, consultation and treatment, education, care  
5 management and self-management of a patient's physical and mental  
6 health, and includes (A) interaction between the patient at the  
7 originating site and the telehealth provider at a distant site, and (B)  
8 synchronous interactions, asynchronous store and forward transfers or  
9 remote patient monitoring. Telehealth does not include the use of  
10 facsimile, audio-only telephone, texting or electronic mail;
- 11 (2) "Physician" means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of  
12 the general statutes;
- 13 (3) "Nurse" means a registered nurse or an advanced practice  
14 registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes;  
15 and

16 (4) "Personal emergency response system" means a twenty-four-  
17 hour-per-day electronic alarm system placed in a patient's home that  
18 enables the patient to obtain immediate help in case of an emergency.

19 (b) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Department of Public Health  
20 shall establish, in collaboration with a hospital in the state, a Hospice  
21 Hospital at Home pilot program to provide hospice care to patients in  
22 the home through a combination of in-person visits and telehealth. The  
23 pilot program shall provide the following to such patients:

24 (1) A daily telehealth visit by a physician that the patient may attend  
25 using the patient's computer or mobile device or, if the patient does not  
26 have access to a computer or mobile device in the home, using a tablet  
27 provided through the program;

28 (2) In-person visits by a registered nurse at least twice daily, or more  
29 frequently if necessary, as determined by a physician or nurse treating  
30 the patient;

31 (3) A personal emergency response system;

32 (4) Remote monitoring of the patient by physicians and nurses  
33 participating in the pilot program, provided the patient and each person  
34 residing with the patient consent to such monitoring; and

35 (5) Telephone access to an on-call physician or nurse if the patient,  
36 the patient's caregiver or any person residing with the patient has any  
37 immediate questions or concerns regarding the patient's condition.

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) As used in this section:

39 (1) "Nurse" means a registered nurse or an advanced practice  
40 registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 of the general statutes;

41 (2) "Hospice care program" means a program to provide hospice  
42 services operated by an organization licensed by the Department of  
43 Public Health to provide hospice home care services pursuant to section  
44 19a-122b of the general statutes;

45 (3) "Supervision" means the overseeing of the work of a nurse  
46 through the continuous availability of direct communication between  
47 the nurse and a licensed physician;

48 (4) "Physician" means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of  
49 the general statutes;

50 (5) "Infusion" means the administration of intravenous fluid or  
51 medication given over a period of time; and

52 (6) "Intravenous push" means the administration of intravenous  
53 medication rapidly through an injection with a syringe in the  
54 intravenous line.

55 (b) A nurse who is providing hospice care through a hospice care  
56 program may, under the supervision of a physician, administer fluids  
57 or medications intravenously to a patient, including, but not limited to,  
58 by performing an infusion or an intravenous push.

59 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,  
60 "hospice care program" has the same meaning as provided in section 2  
61 of this act.

62 (b) Each individual health insurance policy providing coverage of the  
63 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
64 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended  
65 or continued in this state shall provide coverage for hospice services  
66 provided to an insured in the home through a hospice care program, to  
67 the extent coverage is provided for inpatient hospice services in a  
68 hospital. Such coverage shall be subject to the same terms and  
69 conditions applicable to all other benefits under such policy.

70 (c) No such policy shall exclude a hospice service for coverage solely  
71 because such hospice service is provided in the home and not at a  
72 hospital, provided hospice care in the home is appropriate for the  
73 insured.

74 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or limit a health insurer,

75 health care center, hospital service corporation, medical service  
76 corporation or other entity from conducting utilization review for in-  
77 home hospice services, provided such utilization review is conducted in  
78 the same manner and uses the same clinical review criteria as a  
79 utilization review for the same hospice services provided in a hospital.

80 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,  
81 "hospice care program" has the same meaning as provided in section 2  
82 of this act.

83 (b) Each group health insurance policy providing coverage of the  
84 type specified in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), (11) and (12) of section 38a-469  
85 of the general statutes delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, amended  
86 or continued in this state shall provide coverage for hospice services  
87 provided to an insured in the home through a hospice care program, to  
88 the extent coverage is provided for inpatient hospice services in a  
89 hospital. Such coverage shall be subject to the same terms and  
90 conditions applicable to all other benefits under such policy.

91 (c) No such policy shall exclude a hospice service for coverage solely  
92 because such service is provided in the home and not at a hospital,  
93 provided hospice care in the home is appropriate for the insured.

94 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or limit a health insurer,  
95 health care center, hospital service corporation, medical service  
96 corporation or other entity from conducting utilization review for an in-  
97 home hospice services, provided such utilization review is conducted in  
98 the same manner and uses the same clinical review criteria as a  
99 utilization review for the same hospice services provided in a hospital.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide dignity to hospice care patients by allowing them to pass away comfortably in their home.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*