

Patient Choice Letter – Home Health Services

Dear Patient:

Your physician is recommending that you receive follow up care at a **Home Health Agency**. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) require hospitals to provide patients with a list of Medicare-participating home health agencies that serve the geographic area requested by the patient (you) to help you make an informed choice of provider. As the patient, you (or your legal representative) have the right to choose which home health agency you want that can meet your services needs upon discharge. Mercy Medical Center will do our best to honor your preferences; however, please note referral is not limited to selected agency. Should your preferred agency be unable to accommodate the request, services at alternate agency may be necessary to continue treatment at the appropriate level of care.

CMS also requires that the hospital disclose to you its ownership/interest in any home health agency included on the attached list. Dignity Health has ownership interest in the following home health agency:

- Mercy Home Health Care

Please be advised that if you are enrolled in a Managed Care Insurance plan (HMO), your insurance only covers home health services which are preauthorized and provided in a contracted Home Health Agency. Please check with your insurance company if you are uncertain about your options for Home Health Services. Please see the list on the back of this letter so that you can make an informed decision. Agencies listed in **bold** are those that are part of the Dignity Health family and/or have demonstrated higher levels of quality. Also please note you may have a copay/deductible associated with this service. Contact your insurance company for more information. A member of Care Coordination is available should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Care Coordination Department
Mercy Medical Center

For additional information or assistance with home health services for the elderly or dependent adults please contact: <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/1475/Area-Agency-on-Aging>

Additional Home Health Agency Information available at the Home Health Compare website: <https://medicare.gov/>

The statements contained in this document are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of CMS. The authors assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in this document.

What is Home Health Compare?

Home Health Compare has information about the quality of care provided by “Medicare-certified” home health agencies throughout the nation. “Medicare-certified” means the home health agency is approved by Medicare and meets certain federal health and safety requirements.

Home Health Compare can help you or your family or friends choose a quality home health agency that has the skilled home health services you need. The information on Home Health Compare:

- Helps you learn how well home health agencies care for their patients
- Shows you how often each agency used best practices when caring for its patients and whether patients improve in certain important areas of care
- Shows you what other patients said about their recent home health care experience

The information in Home Health Compare should be looked at carefully. Use it with the other information you gather about home health agencies. Talk to your doctor or other health care provider about the information on Home Health Compare.

Home Health Compare was created through the efforts of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). NOTE: Medicare won't cover home health services provided by a home health agency that hasn't been Medicare-certified.

