

THE SECRET

5th Level of Hospice Care

Extra Support for the Last 7 Days of Life



You Already Know the 4 Levels of Hospice

1. Routine Home Care
2. Continuous Home Care
3. General Inpatient Care
4. Respite Care

But there is a lesser-known Medicare provision designed specifically for the final 7 days of life.

▶ **It is called the Service Intensity Add-On, or the SIA.**

And it exists for one reason: To increase skilled hospice presence when patients are actively dying.

What This Means for Your Team

When a patient declines rapidly and is likely in their final days

- Symptoms escalate
- Families need reassurance
- Staff workload increases
- Emotional intensity rises

Medicare reimburses hospice to provide additional

- Registered Nurse visits
- Medical Social Worker visits

**In person.
At the bedside.
During the final 7 days.**

7 Days or Less

Is Not Too Late for Hospice

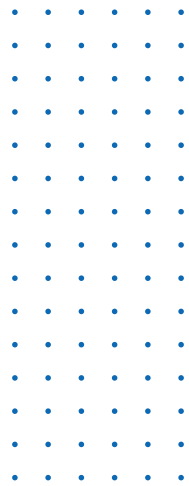
If a patient previously refused hospice but is now actively declining, you can still refer.

Hospice was designed for this moment.

How the Service Intensity Add-On Works

The Service Intensity Add-On, SIA, is an additional Medicare payment that supports high-intensity hospice care in the last 7 days of life. This payment is provided in addition to the standard daily rate for Routine Home Care, RHC, by Medicare.

RHC SIA also ensures 13 months of bereavement support for the family of the deceased.



Eligibility Requirements

- The patient must be on Routine Home Care
- The visit must occur in the last 7 days of life
- The patient must pass while on hospice
- Care must be in person
- Only RN or Medical Social Worker visits qualify

This is Medicare's intentional design to ensure bedside presence when needs are greatest.

Your Benefits

- Additional skilled oversight
- Extra hands and clinical eyes
- Structured end-of-life support
- Family communication assistance
- Medicare-aligned reimbursement model

Hospice is not taking over your care. It is adding to it.

IF YOUR TEAM IS MANAGING

- Increased pain
- Breathing distress
- Anxiety or agitation
- Rapid functional decline
- Family crisis

You do not have to manage it alone. Hospice is funded to step in.

ASK YOURSELF

- Who under your care has made a significant turn?
- Who is showing signs of active dying?
- Who declined hospice months ago but now clearly needs it?

This is your moment to activate additional support.

The Last 7 Days Deserve a Team

REFER EARLY. REFER LATE.

But do not manage the final days alone.