

# Medicare Service Terms



## Advance Beneficiary Notice:

A notice given to Original Medicare patients when a service may not be covered

Example: The doctor gave an **advance beneficiary notice** before the procedure, explaining that Medicare might not cover the cost for the cosmetic component



## Benefit Period:

Time spent receiving inpatient care. It begins once admitted and ends when patient has not received inpatient care for 60 consecutive days

Example: After a stroke, the **benefit period** began once admitted and ended two months after the last treatment



## Inpatient Services:

Care provided in an inpatient facility; patient has been admitted and spends at least one night at the facility

Example: During the hospital stay, the individual received **inpatient services** within the hospital, including IV and routine blood pressure checks



## Medically Necessary:

Services or supplies needed to diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease, or its symptoms; must meet accepted standards of medicine

Example: Because the patient had diabetes, the glucose monitor was considered **medically necessary**



## Outpatient Services:

Care provided when not admitted into a hospital; includes services provided in some hospital settings like walk-in clinics, doctors' offices, etc.

Example: The physical therapy after ankle surgery was an **outpatient service**



## Preventive Services:

Care that prevents or detects illness at an early stage (for example: flu shots, cancer screenings)

Example: The vaccine that the individual got at the local pharmacy was a **preventive service**

### Medicare Resources

Contact for assistance:  
Illinois SHIP office: (800) 252-8966  
[AGING.SHIP@illinois.gov](mailto:AGING.SHIP@illinois.gov)

Medicare: 1-800-MEDICARE  
<https://www.medicare.gov/>

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