

Medicaid Beneficiaries May Soon Have Access to Palliative Care

Healthcare Law Update

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Assembly [Bill 5225](#), amended on March 30, 2023, would establish community-based palliative care benefits through Medicaid. Currently, Medicaid covers hospice services rather than palliative care. Eligibility for hospice services requires a Medicaid beneficiary who is 21 or older, among other things, to waive all rights to curative treatment or services. Under this bill, palliative care benefits would include specialized medical care and emotional and spiritual support; relief of symptoms, pain, and stress of serious illness; improvement of quality of life; and appropriate care for any age and stage of serious illness and curative treatment.

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