

Hospice Meds: Cycle vs. Non-cycle

- **Cycle Meds:** Routine medications come one time monthly with a 28-day supply, this way you receive 4 full weeks of a medication for your resident. These medications start the same day of the week every 4 weeks.

- **Non-Cycle Meds:** Once a resident signs on to Hospice there are certain medications that hospice covers the copay for – these are “hospice-covered medications”
 - Hospice covered medications can only be sent in a 15-day supply per insurance (very few Hospices allow a 28 day fill)
 - Medications that are hospice-covered will NOT be sent with cycle meds, as they are non-cycle, the **MUST BE REQUESTED**
 - The hospice nurse can request from their hospice company to have receive an approval to send a full 30 day supply due to the resident being in long-term care setting. If the hospice company sends this approval through, we can then send meds on cycle fill
 - This approval process needs to be initiated by and approved through the hospice company and their billing. The pharmacy cannot request this override.

- **Recommendations:** For hospice residents, have your facility’s med tech/caregivers indicate on the card when there are 3-4 days remaining in order for them to pull stickers and fax over a refill request so that they are received before the resident runs out of medications

- *Hospice-covered medications should include any medications a patient may need for pain and symptom management related to the terminal condition. Each individual hospice can let you know what will and will not be considered “hospice-covered.” (per www.medicareinteractive.org)*