OPA HOME CARE
Extraordinary Home Care

Paying for Care

Read this as a starting vocabulary, not as current rules. Coverage rules, income and asset limits, benefit amounts, and what counts as a qualifying stay all get revised, and much of it varies by state. Use it to learn what exists and what to ask about. Then get current answers from a benefits counselor, an elder law attorney, your State Health Insurance Assistance Program, or your local Area Agency on Aging. Ask when the information you are given was last updated.

TALK TO AN ATTORNEY ABOUT THIS

Two things on this page need a lawyer rather than a benefits counselor. First, anything involving Medicaid eligibility, asset transfers, or spend-down. Transfers made without advice can trigger a penalty period that delays coverage for months. Second, a reverse mortgage, which is a lien on the home and affects what heirs receive. Have both reviewed before signing anything.

Source	What it generally does	Applies to us?
Private pay	Paying directly. The most flexible option and usually the most expensive.	
Medicare	Medical care and short-term skilled care after a qualifying hospital stay. Has not historically covered long-term custodial care.	
Medicaid	Can cover long-term custodial care in many settings. Financial eligibility set state by state.	
VA benefits	Programs for veterans and some surviving spouses. Aid and Attendance is the one most families meet first.	
Long-term care insurance	Has to be bought before the need exists. Read what triggers an existing policy.	
Reverse mortgage	Converts home equity into usable funds while still living in the home.	
Life insurance provisions	Some policies allow early access through an accelerated death benefit or a viatical settlement.	
Family contribution	Direct money, shared costs, or unpaid care. Often the largest source and the hardest to see.	