



## Types of Massachusetts Home Care Agencies

The different types of home care agencies comprise a continuum of care and choice for the client. In practice, the category of service delivery is determined by the agency's funding source and the regulations that apply to these sources.

### Certified Home Health Agencies

- **Regulatory oversight:** Certified home health agencies are regulated by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and audited by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) using standards based on the Conditions of Participation for Home Health Agencies.
- **Funding sources:** Medicare, Medicaid and third party insurers
- **Eligibility criteria for Medicare:**
  - Under a physician's supervision who prescribes the plan of care
  - Services are short term & intermittent, and patient must be "homebound" status
  - **Services types:** nursing, PT, OT with ST, nutritional counseling, medical social services, home health aide services, medical and IV administration supplies – wound, teaching needs, med changes, safety evaluation, ambulation, exercise, adaptive equipment for bathing.

### Home Care Agencies

- **Regulatory oversight:** Provider agencies to Aging Services Access Points (ASAP's) must meet contracting requirements (including supervision and training requirements) issued by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA). Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission & MA Commission for the Blind have implemented similar contract requirements.
- **Funding sources:** Various streams to include both state dollars and/or Medicaid/Medicare funding depending upon program (Basic Home Care, ECOP, SCO, PACE)
- **Eligibility criteria:** Income and need guidelines must be met based upon program criteria.
  - Programs function under a more social model than medical model.
  - Services are long-term adjusted over time based on functional need of consumer
  - **Services types:** homemaker, personal care homemaker, home health aide, supportive home care aide, companion, and chore

### Private Pay Agencies

- **Regulatory oversight:** There are no regulations in the Commonwealth for agencies to deliver private home care services.
- **Funding sources:** Services are paid by the client or through private Long Term Care Insurance.
- **Eligibility criteria:** None. The client and the agency determine the nature of these services.