You can leave home for medical treatment such as chemotherapy or dialysis or for receiving therapeutic and psychosocial treatment (i.e., through a certified adult day care program)

You cannot be disqualified from services if you leave home for a non-medical absence as long as the absence is “infrequent and short in duration” (e.g., attending a religious service, trip to a barber or hairdresser, special family event or walk around the block)

What services are provided?
The House Calls team of a physician and nurse practitioner provides ongoing primary care and follow-up visits to homebound patients. We work with your home health nurse and therapists to coordinate your medical care.

Services include:
• In-home full medical evaluation
• Evaluation of daily function
• Mental status evaluation
• Routine laboratory tests
• Evaluation of the home environment for safety
• Discussion of living arrangements, family support and community services
• How to access emergency services if needed

How do I pay for a House Call?
If you have traditional Medicare and are considered “homebound,” Medicare will pay the reasonable cost for the doctor’s visit; however, you are responsible for the 20% co-pay.

*Not all managed care or insurance plans cover physician visits to homebound individuals.

Please call the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging at (856) 566-6843 to find out if you qualify for the House Calls Program.

New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging (NJISA)
42 East Laurel Road
The University Doctors’ Pavilion
Suite 1800
Stratford, NJ 08084
Phone: 856-566-6843
Fax: 856-566-2775
njisa.umdnj.edu
**What is the NJISA?**
The New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging (NJISA) at UMDNJ–School of Osteopathic Medicine is a nationally recognized center of excellence committed to helping older individuals age successfully by maintaining health, promoting wellness and managing chronic conditions. Our health care team works with you to tailor a personalized plan of care based on your needs and personal goals.

**What is the House Calls Program?**
One thing we know is that older individuals prefer to remain in their own homes as long as possible. As we grow older, chronic illness or other health problems may make it difficult for some of us to leave home. Especially after hospitalization or during a severe illness, traveling to a doctor’s office can be an exhausting experience or even an impossible task.

Doctors know that going to see a patient where they live…in their own home…is good medicine. Through the House Calls Program, we bring our medical practice to the patient. A physician and/or nurse practitioner are available to provide comprehensive, continuous high quality care in the patient’s home. House Calls lets us get to know our patients and their families or caregivers in the home situation. It also permits us to interact with home health nurses and other therapists who are involved in the patient’s care.

House calls do take more time for the health care team. During the home visit, the physician and nurse practitioner can give more personalized attention to the patient. This is particularly important when the patient has been discharged from a hospital or nursing home and can benefit from the close follow-up provided by the physician or nurse practitioner. Often, this type of individualized or “person-centered” care can prevent rehospitalization soon after discharge. It is also good medicine!

**What makes the House Calls Program special?**
The answer is simple…our doctor and our nurse practitioner! All NJISA physicians and nurse practitioners are trained to care for older individuals and are attuned to their special and often complex needs. We are experienced in functioning as part of a health care team and communicating with visiting nurses, therapists, and other physicians, as well as the patient and family, to provide the best possible care in the home setting. Our doctors can even continue to provide your care if you are admitted to the hospital, assisted living facility or nursing home.

**Who qualifies for the House Calls Program?**
To be eligible for the House Calls Program under Medicare, you must be considered “homebound.” That doesn’t mean you have to be “bed bound.” You can qualify if:

- You cannot leave home without “considerable taxing effort”
  
  Some examples include:
  - You require the aide of supportive devices (e.g., cane, walker, wheelchair, etc.)
  - You require the use of special transportation
  - You need the assistance of another person
  - You have a condition where leaving home is medically contraindicated