

SNF PPS Swing Bed

Rural Hospitals with Swing Beds

Program of Activities: In accordance with 42 CFR 483.15(f), swing beds must provide "for" a program of activities.... If the hospital infrequently uses swing beds, or has a length of stay inappropriate to activities, they would need to have a plan for activities in policy and procedure to address when it would be appropriate and how they would provide the activities. If the activities are inappropriate from the medical point of view because of the condition of the patient and the length of stay, an activities program needs to be modified to be appropriate for the patient.

Social Work Services: 42 CFR 483.15(g) requires "social work services". A social worker is only required if the facility is more than 120 beds. Our requirement is for medically related social services. If an RN is trained and educated to provide these services, it would meet the requirement.

Change in Level of Care/Discharge: Swing bed payment regulations can be found at 42 CFR 409.30. Standard (a) discusses discharge from the hospital. Basically a SNF patient does not have to be from the same hospital or CAH as the swing bed.

42 CFR 482.12(c)(4) defines that a physician is responsible for the care of the patient. 482.24(c)(2)(vii) states that all records must document a discharge summary with outcome of hospitalization, disposition of care, and provisions for follow-up care. As the person responsible for the care of the patient it therefore follows the physician must do the discharge summary.

Discharge from the acute care hospital bed is required because the patient is changing from one form of reimbursement (PPS) to another (SNF PPS). This is a reimbursement requirement for payment. A swing bed is not considered hospital level care. It is defined in the payment regulations as SNF level care and is reimbursed at a lesser amount.

It therefore follows that the patient must have a discharge summary following acute care services. When the patient is discharged from the swing bed, they need a discharge summary of SNF level services.