§ 424.14 Requirements for inpatient services of psychiatric hospitals.

(a) Content of certification and recertification: General considerations. The content requirements differ from those for other hospitals because the care furnished in psychiatric hospitals is often purely custodial and thus not covered under Medicare. The purpose of the statements, therefore, is to help ensure that Medicare pays only for services of the type appropriate for Medicare coverage. Accordingly, Medicare Part A pays for inpatient care in a psychiatric hospital only if a physician certifies that the individual may reasonably be expected to be discharged or transferred to a hospital within 96 hours after admission to the CAH.

(b) Timing of certification. Certification is required no later than 1 day before the date on which the claim for payment for the inpatient CAH services is submitted.


§ 424.15 Requirements for inpatient CAH services.

(a) Content of certification. Medicare Part A pays for inpatient CAH services only if a physician certifies that the individual may reasonably be expected to be discharged or transferred to a hospital within 96 hours after admission to the CAH.

(b) Timing of certification. Certification is required no later than 1 day before the date on which the claim for payment for the inpatient CAH services is submitted.


§ 424.16 Timing of certification for individual admitted to a hospital before entitlement to Medicare benefits.

(a) Basic rule. If an individual is admitted to a hospital before becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (for instance, before attaining age 65), the day of entitlement (instead of the day of admission) is the starting point for the time limits specified in §424.13(e) for certification and recertification.

(b) Example. (Hospital that is not a psychiatric hospital and is not subject to PPS). For a patient who is admitted on August 15 and becomes entitled on September 1—

(1) The certification is required no later than September 12;