



SWING BED SERVICES

ICN 006951 November 2016

Please note: The information in this publication applies only to the Medicare Fee-For-Service Program (also known as Original Medicare).

The Hyperlink Table, at the end of this document, provides the complete URL for each hyperlink.

Learn about these topics on swing bed services:

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Requirements that apply to hospitals
- ❖ Requirements that apply to Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- ❖ Payments
- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Lists of helpful websites and Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators

Background

Hospitals, as defined in [Section 1861\(e\) of the Social Security Act](#), and CAHs with a Medicare provider agreement that includes Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approval to furnish swing bed services may use their beds as needed to furnish either acute or Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)-level care. Rural hospitals and CAHs with swing bed approval increase Medicare patient access to post-acute SNF-level care.

Hospitals paid under the Acute Care Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and CAHs with approval to furnish swing bed services may use any acute care bed within the hospital or CAH for the provision of swing bed services, with the exception of acute care beds:

- ❖ Within their IPPS-excluded rehabilitation or psychiatric distinct part unit
- ❖ In an intensive care-type unit
- ❖ For newborns

Medicare patients must receive acute care as a hospital or CAH inpatient for a medically necessary stay of at least 3 consecutive calendar days to qualify for coverage of SNF-level services.

Requirements That Apply to Hospitals

To receive, and retain, approval to furnish post-acute SNF-level care via a swing bed agreement, hospitals must:

- ❖ Be located in a rural area, which includes all areas that are not delineated as urbanized by the U.S. Census Bureau based on the most recent census for which data is published (an urbanized area does not include an urban cluster)
- ❖ Have fewer than 100 beds (excluding beds for newborns and intensive care-type units)
- ❖ Have a Medicare provider agreement as a hospital
- ❖ Not have had a swing bed approval terminated within the 2 years previous to submission of the current application for swing bed approval (this requirement applies to all swing bed providers, including CAHs)
- ❖ Not have had a nursing waiver granted as specified in the “Code of Federal Regulations” (CFR) at [42 CFR 488.54\(c\)](#)
- ❖ Be substantially in compliance with these SNF participation requirements as specified at [42 CFR 482.58\(b\)\(1–8\)](#):
 - Residents’ rights
 - Admission, transfer, and discharge rights
 - Freedom from abuse, neglect, and exploitation
 - Patient activities
 - Social services
 - Discharge planning
 - Specialized rehabilitative services
 - Dental services

Requirements That Apply to CAHs

CAHs must be substantially in compliance with these SNF participation requirements as specified at [42 CFR 485.645\(d\)\(1–9\)](#):

- ❖ Residents’ rights
- ❖ Facility responsibilities
- ❖ Admission, transfer, and discharge rights
- ❖ Freedom from abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- ❖ Patient activities (with exceptions for director of services)
- ❖ Social services

- ❖ Comprehensive assessment, comprehensive care plan, and discharge planning (with some exceptions)
- ❖ Specialized rehabilitative services
- ❖ Dental services
- ❖ Nutrition

A CAH may maintain no more than 25 inpatient beds. A CAH with Medicare approval to furnish swing bed services may use any of its inpatient beds for either inpatient or SNF-level services. A CAH may also operate a distinct part rehabilitation or psychiatric unit, each with up to 10 beds; however, it may not use a bed within these units for swing bed services.

Payments

Effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2002, hospitals offering swing bed services (excluding CAHs) are paid for their SNF-level services under the SNF PPS. The SNF PPS covers all costs (ancillary, routine, and capital) related to covered services furnished to Medicare patients under a Medicare Part A covered SNF stay, with the exception of certain specified services that are separately billable under Part B. For more information about the SNF PPS, visit the CMS [SNF PPS webpage](#) and refer to [Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System](#).

CAHs that offer swing bed services are exempt from the SNF PPS. These CAHs are paid for their SNF-level services based on 101 percent of the reasonable cost of the services. For more information about CAH billing and payment, refer to [Critical Access Hospital and Medicare Billing Information for Rural Providers and Suppliers](#).

Resources

This table provides swing bed services resource information.

Swing Bed Services Resources

For More Information About...	Resource
Swing Bed Services	CMS.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/SwingBed.html Chapter 8 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Publication 100-02) Chapter 6 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Publication 100-04)
Code of Federal Regulations	ECFR.gov
Compilation of Social Security Laws	SSA.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1800.htm

Swing Bed Services Resources (cont.)

For More Information About...	Resource
All Available Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)	MLN Catalog
Provider-Specific Medicare Information	MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources
Medicare Information for Patients	Medicare.gov

Hyperlink Table

Embedded Hyperlink	Complete URL
Section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act	https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1861.htm
42 CFR 488.54(c)	http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=0a31d1b2e8bce9fa5fb1ab8c6bdd294e&mc=true&node=se42.5.488_154&rgn=div8
42 CFR 482.58(b)(1–8)	http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=0a31d1b2e8bce9fa5fb1ab8c6bdd294e&mc=true&node=se42.5.482_158&rgn=div8
42 CFR 485.645(d)(1–9)	http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=0a31d1b2e8bce9fa5fb1ab8c6bdd294e&mc=true&node=se42.5.485_1645&rgn=div8
SNF PPS webpage	https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPSP
Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243671.html
Critical Access Hospital	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243364.html
Medicare Billing Information for Rural Providers and Suppliers	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243515.html
Medicare Benefit Policy Manual	https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c08.pdf

Hyperlink Table (cont.)

Embedded Hyperlink	Complete URL
Medicare Claims Processing Manual	https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c06.pdf
MLN Catalog	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf
MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf

Helpful Websites**American Hospital Association Rural Health Care**<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/rural>**Critical Access Hospitals Center**<https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Critical-Access-Hospitals-Center.html>**Disproportionate Share Hospitals**<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/dsh.html>**Federally Qualified Health Centers Center**<https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Federally-Qualified-Health-Centers-FQHC-Center.html>**Health Resources and Services Administration**<https://www.hrsa.gov>**Hospital Center**<https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospital-Center.html>**Medicare Learning Network®**<http://go.cms.gov/MLNGenInfo>**National Association of Community Health Centers**<http://nachc.org>**National Association of Rural Health Clinics**<http://narhc.org>**National Rural Health Association**<https://www.ruralhealthweb.org>**Rural Health Clinics Center**<https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Rural-Health-Clinics-Center.html>

Rural Health Information Hub

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org>

Swing Bed Providers

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/SwingBed.html>

Telehealth

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth>

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>

Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators

To find contact information for CMS Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators who provide technical, policy, and operational assistance on rural health issues, refer to <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/Downloads/CMSRuralHealthCoordinators.pdf>.

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