



Internet Only Manual Updates to Publication (Pub.) 100-02 to Implement Updates to Policy and Correct Errors and Omissions (Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF))

MLN Matters Number: MM12353

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12353

Related CR Release Date: August 6, 2021

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Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters Article is for IRFs that bill Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services they provide to Medicare patients.

Provider Action Needed

This Article tells you about updates to Chapter 1, Section 110 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual. These updates:

- Clarify some existing content related to IRFs
- Correct various omissions and minor technical errors
- Provide information on new, finalized IRF policies
- Explain waivers and flexibilities issued during the public health emergency for COVID-19

Make sure your billing staff is aware of these changes. [CR 12353](#) includes the relevant manual content.

Background

CMS bases [CR 12353](#) on IRF policies we finalized in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 IRF Prospective Payment System (PPS) final rule ([85 FR 48424](#)).

We summarize the key Chapter 1 changes to the manual as follows:

Section 110: Adds clarifying language regarding an IRF patient's ability to participate actively in a therapy program upon admission to the IRF. This allows CMS to consider the IRF claim reasonable and necessary.

Section 110.1.1: Adds regulatory citations to the required preadmission screening.

Section 110.1.2: Removes all policy guidance regarding the post-admission physician evaluation.

Section 110.1.3: Adds regulatory citations for the individualized plan of care.

Section 110.1.4: Adds regulatory citations for the require admission orders.

Section 110.1.5: Reminds IRFs that the patient assessment instrument should be in the patient's medical record at the IRF.

Sections 110.2 and 110.2.4: Adds CMS requirements for the minimum number of rehabilitation visits to the patient. It also shows when non-physician practitioners may conduct these visits.

Section 110.2.2: Adds regulatory citations for the intensive level of rehabilitation services.

Section 110.2.6: IRF Waivers and Flexibilities During the Public Health Emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic: This Section restates the waivers and flexibilities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

More Information

We issued [CR 12353](#) to your MAC as the official instruction for this change. The manual revisions are part of the CR, including miscellaneous sections that aren't in the above summary.

For more information, contact your [MAC](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
August 9, 2021	Initial article released.

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