



Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Services: Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Updates

Related Change Request (CR) Information	
Number: 14635	Release Date: October 15, 2026
Effective Date: October 1, 2026	Implementation Date: November 17, 2026
Transmittal Number: R14001BP	
Title: Internet Only Manual Updates to Publication (Pub.) 100-02 for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Services	

Affected Providers

- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs)
- Hospitals

Action Needed

Make sure your staff knows about updates to the [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 1](#), sections 110.1 and 110.2, including requirements for:

- IRF documentation
- Therapy timing
- The initial interdisciplinary team (IDT) meeting

Key Updates

The Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 1, sections 110.1 and 110.2 include updates about the initial IDT meeting and therapy timing.

Initial IDT Meeting and Plan of Care

Regulations at [42 CFR 412.622\(a\)\(5\)\(ii\)](#) require the IRF to hold its initial IDT meeting on or before the fourth day after the patient's admission, counting the admission day as day 1.

Document the initial IDT meeting separately from the plan of care (POC) in the patient's medical record. The IRF must complete the POC within the first 4 days of the IRF admission, counting the day of admission as day 1.

Following the initial IDT meeting, conduct all subsequent IDT meetings within 7 days of the previous meeting.

Therapy Timing

The IRF must begin all required therapy treatments no later than 36 hours from midnight on the day of the patient's admission. Therapy evaluations generally constitute the beginning of the required therapy services.

Background

CR 14635 revises the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 1, sections 110.1 and 110.2 to reflect recent IRF policy updates and clarify existing manual guidance.

More Information

We issued CR 14635 to your Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) as the official instruction for this change. For more information, find your [MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
October 16, 2026	Initial article released.

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