

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



# Swing Bed Services

## RURAL HEALTH FACT SHEET SERIES

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

This publication provides the following information about swing bed services:

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

### BACKGROUND

Hospitals, as defined in Section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act, or 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 that have swing bed approval increase Medicare patient access to post-acute SNF care and maximize the efficiency of operations by meeting unpredictable demands for acute and long-term care.



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

- ❖ Within their IPPS-excluded rehabilitation or psychiatric distinct part unit;
- ❖ In an intensive care-type unit; or
- ❖ 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 be granted, and retain, approval to furnish post-acute level SNF 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 United States (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;
- ❖ Not have had a nursing waiver granted as specified in the “Code of Federal Regulations” (CFR) at 42 CFR 488.54(c); and
- ❖ Be substantially in compliance with the following SNF participation requirements as specified at 42 CFR 482.66(b)(1–8):
  - Residents’ rights;
  - Admission, transfer, and discharge rights;
  - Resident behavior and facility practices;
  - Patient activities;
  - Social services;
  - Discharge planning;
  - Specialized rehabilitative services; and
  - Dental services.

## REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO CAHS

CAHs must be substantially in compliance with the following SNF participation requirements as specified at 42 CFR 485.645(d)(1–9):

- ❖ Residents’ rights;
- ❖ Admission, transfer, and discharge rights;
- ❖ Resident behavior and facility practices;
- ❖ 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; and
- ❖ Nutrition.

A CAH may provide no more than 25 inpatient beds. When a CAH has Medicare approval to furnish swing bed services, it 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 <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS> and refer to the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) publication titled “Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System” located at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/snfprospaymtfctsh.pdf> on the CMS website.


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 two MLN publications: “Critical Access Hospital” located at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/CritAccessHospfctsh.pdf> and “Medicare Billing Information for Rural Providers and Suppliers” located at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/RuralChart.pdf> on the CMS website.



## RESOURCES

The chart below provides swing bed services resource information.

### Swing Bed Services Resources

For More Information About...	Resource
Swing Bed Services	<p><a href="http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/SwingBed.html">http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/SwingBed.html</a> on the CMS website</p> <p>Chapter 8 of the “Medicare Benefit Policy Manual” (Publication 100-02) located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c08.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c08.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p> <p>Chapter 6 of the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual” (Publication 100-04) located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c06.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c06.pdf</a> on the CMS website</p>
“Code of Federal Regulations”	<a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/home.action</a> on the U.S. Government Printing Office website
Compilation of Social Security Laws	<a href="http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1800.htm">http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1800.htm</a> on the U.S. Social Security Administration website
All Available MLN Products	<p>“Medicare Learning Network® Catalog of Products” located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf</a> on the CMS website or scan the Quick Response (QR) code on the right with your mobile device</p> 
Provider-Specific Medicare Information	MLN publication titled “MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources” booklet located at <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf</a> on the CMS website
Medicare Information for Patients	<a href="http://www.medicare.gov">http://www.medicare.gov</a> on the CMS website



## HELPFUL WEBSITES

### American Hospital Association Rural Health Care

<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/rural>

### Critical Access Hospitals Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Critical-Access-Hospitals-Center.html>

### Disproportionate Share Hospital

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/dsh.html>

### Federally Qualified Health Centers Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Federally-Qualified-Health-Centers-FQHC-Center.html>

### Health Resources and Services Administration

<http://www.hrsa.gov>

### Hospital Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospital-Center.html>

### Medicare Learning Network®

<http://go.cms.gov/MLNGenInfo>

### National Association of Community Health Centers

<http://www.nachc.org>

### National Association of Rural Health Clinics

<http://narhc.org>

### National Rural Health Association

<http://www.ruralhealthweb.org>

### Rural Assistance Center

<http://www.raconline.org>

### Rural Health Clinics Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Rural-Health-Clinics-Center.html>

### Swing Bed Providers

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

### Telehealth

<http://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 <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/Downloads/CMSRuralHealthCoordinators.pdf> on the CMS website.



This fact sheet was current at the time it was published or uploaded onto the web. Medicare policy changes frequently so links to the source documents have been provided within the document for your reference.

This fact sheet was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This fact sheet may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Your feedback is important to us and we use your suggestions to help us improve our educational products, services and activities and to develop products, services and activities that better meet your educational needs. To evaluate Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) products, services and activities you have participated in, received, or downloaded, please go to <http://go.cms.gov/MLNProducts> and in the left-hand menu click on the link called 'MLN Opinion Page' and follow the instructions. Please send your suggestions related to MLN product topics or formats to [MLN@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MLN@cms.hhs.gov).

The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN), a registered trademark of CMS, is the brand name for official information health care professionals can trust. For additional information, visit the MLN's web page at <http://go.cms.gov/MLNGenInfo> on the CMS website.

Check out CMS on:

