A HOSPITAL OR CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAH) with a Medicare agreement to furnish swing bed services may use its beds as needed to furnish either acute or Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) level care. In order to be granted approval to furnish post-acute level SNF care via a swing bed agreement, the following requirements must be met:

For a hospital:
- The hospital is located in a rural area;
- The hospital has fewer than 100 beds (excluding beds for newborns and intensive care-type units);
- The hospital has a Medicare provider agreement, as a hospital;
- The hospital is substantially in compliance with the following SNF participation requirements:
  - Residents rights;
  - admission, transfer, and discharge rights;
  - resident behavior and facility practices;
  - patient activities;
  - social services;
  - discharge planning;
  - specialized rehabilitative services; and
  - dental services;
- The hospital has not had a nursing waiver granted as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 42 CFR Section 488.54(c); and;
- The hospital has not had a swing bed approval terminated within the two years previous to application for participation.

For a CAH:
- The CAH is substantially in compliance with the following SNF participation requirements:
  - residents rights;
  - admission, transfer, and discharge rights;
  - resident behavior and facility practices;
  - patient activities (except for direction);
  - 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 25 inpatient beds for either acute care or SNF level care. Any bed that is within a CAH distinct part unit that is Medicare certified to furnish SNF, rehabilitation, or psychiatric care does not count as part of its maximum 25 inpatient beds.

Rural hospitals and CAHs that have swing bed approval increase Medicare beneficiary access to post-acute SNF care and maximize the efficiency of operations by meeting unpredictable demands for acute and long-term care.
Medicare beneficiaries must receive acute care as a hospital or CAH inpatient for a medically necessary stay of at least three consecutive calendar days in order to qualify for coverage of SNF level services.

Effective with cost reporting periods beginning on or after July 1, 2002, swing bed hospitals (other than CAHs) are paid for their SNF-level services under the SNF Prospective Payment Systems (PPS). The SNF PPS covers all costs (ancillary, routine, and capital) related to covered services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries under a Medicare Part A covered SNF stay, with the exception of certain specified services that are separately billable under Part B. Swing bed CAHs are exempt from the SNF PPS and are instead reimbursed for their SNF-level services on a reasonable cost basis.

To find additional information about swing bed services, see Chapter 6 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Pub. 100-4) and Chapter 8 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Pub. 100-2) at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals and visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFPPS/03_SwingBed.asp on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website. To access the CFR, visit http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html on the Web.

### REGIONAL OFFICE RURAL HEALTH COORDINATORS

Below is a list of contact information for CMS Regional Office Rural Health Coordinators who provide technical, policy, and operational assistance on rural health issues.

#### REGION I – BOSTON
Rick Hoover
E-mail: richard.hoover@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (617) 565-1258
States: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

#### REGION II – NEW YORK
Miechel Lefkowitz
E-mail: miechel.lefkowitz@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (212) 616-2517
States: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands

#### REGION III – PHILADELPHIA
Patrick Hamilton
E-mail: patrick.hamilton@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (215) 861-4097
States: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington DC

#### REGION IV – ATLANTA
Lana Dennis
E-mail: lana.dennis@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (404) 562-7379
States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee

#### REGION V – CHICAGO
Christine Davidson
E-mail: christine.davidson@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (312) 886-3642
States: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

#### REGION VI – DALLAS
Becky Peal-Sconce
E-mail: becky.peal.sconce@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (214) 767-6444
States: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

#### REGION VII – KANSAS CITY
Robert Epps
E-mail: robert.epps@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (816) 426-6538
States: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

#### REGION VIII – DENVER
Lyla Nichols
E-mail: lyla.nichols@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (303) 844-6218
States: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

#### REGION IX – SAN FRANCISCO
Neal Logue
E-mail: Neal.Logue@CMS.HHS.GOV
Telephone: (415) 744-3551
States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa

#### REGION X – SEATTLE
Alma Hardy
E-mail: alma.hardy@cms.hhs.gov
Telephone: (206) 615-2387
States: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

---

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 interpretative materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

The Medicare Learning Network (MLN) is the brand name for official CMS educational products and information for Medicare fee-for-service providers. For additional information visit the Medicare Learning Network’s web page at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo on the CMS website.

April 2009   ICN: 000951