

SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (SNF) SPELL OF ILLNESS QUICK REFERENCE CHART



LEVEL OF CARE	PATIENT'S MEDICARE SNF PART A BENEFITS ARE EXHAUSTED	PATIENT IS IN MEDICARE CERTIFIED AREA OF FACILITY*	IF IN NON-MEDICARE AREA, FACILITY MEETS DEFINITION OF A SNF**	IS PATIENT SPELL OF ILLNESS CONTINUED?	ACTION
MEDICARE SKILLED	YES	YES	NOT APPLICABLE	YES	Submit monthly covered claim.
	NO	YES	NOT APPLICABLE	YES	Submit monthly covered claim.
	YES	NO	YES	YES	Submit monthly covered claim.
	NO	NO	YES	YES	Patient should be returned to certified area for Medicare to be billed.
	NO	NO	NO	NO	Facility should determine whether it would be appropriate to send patient back to a certified area for Medicare coverage.
NOT MEDICARE SKILLED	YES	NO	NO	NO	Do not submit claim if patient came in non-skilled. Otherwise, submit no-pay claim with discharge status code when patient leaves the certified area.
	YES	YES	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	Do not submit claim if patient came in non-skilled. Otherwise, submit no-pay claim with discharge status code when patient leaves the certified area.
	NO	YES	NOT APPLICABLE	NO	Do not submit claim if patient came in non-skilled. Otherwise, submit no-pay claim with discharge status code when patient leaves the certified area.
	NO	NO	YES	NO	Do not submit claim if patient came in non-skilled. Otherwise, submit no-pay claim with discharge status code when patient leaves the certified area.
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Do not submit claim if patient came in non-skilled. Otherwise, submit no-pay claim with discharge status code when patient leaves the certified area.

* Whether the facility considers a patient's bed in the certified area to be a Medicare bed or not has no effect on whether the spell of illness is continued and has no effect on the SNF's action.

** In some states, licensing laws for all nursing homes have incorporated requirements of the basic SNF definition (Social Security Act §1819(a)(1)). When this is the case, any nursing home in such a state would be considered to meet this definition (see the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Internet-Only Manual, Pub. 100-7, Chapter 2, §2164 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/> on the CMS website).

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