



PROPRIETARY STATEMENT

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Policy & Procedure: Interrupted Stay

I. Policy Statement and Purpose

While the majority of SNF benefit periods involve a single SNF stay, it is possible for a beneficiary to be readmitted multiple times to a SNF within a single benefit period. It is the policy of this company to follow criteria for determining when Medicare will treat multiple SNF stays occurring in a single Part A benefit period as a single “interrupted stay, rather than separate stays, for the purposes of the assessment schedule and the variable per diem payment schedule.

II. Procedure

- 1) An interrupted stay is one in which a patient is discharged from SNF care and subsequently readmitted to the same SNF within 3 days or less after discharge. When both conditions are met, the subsequent stay is considered a continuation of the previous “interrupted” stay.
- 2) The interruption window is a 3-day period, starting with the calendar day of discharge and including the 2 immediately following calendar days, ending at midnight.
- 3) If a stay is considered “interrupted” as defined above:
 - Variable per diem schedule continues from the day of the previous discharge
 - For example, If patient was discharged on Day 7, payment rates resume at Day 7 upon readmission
 - Assessment schedule continues from the day of the previous discharge
 - No new-5-day assessment is required
 - Optional IPA may be completed at clinician’s discretion
- 4) In the case of an interrupted stay, providers are not required to complete a new therapy evaluation for the purposes of PPS payment upon the patient’s readmission.
- 5) Providers will report on the claim when an interrupted stay occurred.
- 6) OBRA assessment requirements will continue to be met as described in the Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument 3.0 User’s Manual.
- 7) The provider will finalize the precise discharge type coded on the MDS after the interruption window has closed due to the possibility that a patient may return.
- 8) If the patient is readmitted to the SNF more than 3 consecutive days after discharge:
 - Variable per diem schedule resets to Day 1
 - Assessment schedule resets to Day 1
 - New 5-day assessment required

Interrupted Stay Policy Examples

- *Example 1:* Patient A is admitted to SNF on 11/07/19, admitted to hospital on 11/20/19, and returns to the same SNF on 11/25/19
 - New stay
 - Assessment Schedule: Reset; stay begins with new 5-day assessment
 - Variable Per Diem: Reset; stay begins on Day 1 of variable per diem schedule
- *Example 2:* Patient B is admitted to SNF on 11/07/19, admitted to hospital on 11/20/19, and admitted to a different SNF on 11/22/19
 - New stay
 - Assessment Schedule: Reset; stay begins with new 5-day assessment
 - Variable Per Diem: Reset; stay begins on Day 1 of variable per diem schedule
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- *Example 3:* Patient C is admitted to SNF on 11/07/19, admitted to hospital on 11/20/19, and returns to the same SNF on 11/22/19
 - Continuation of previous stay
 - Assessment Schedule: No PPS assessments required, IPA optional
 - Variable Per Diem: Continues from Day 14 (Day of Discharge)

Resources:

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Patient Driven Payment Model. Fact Sheet: Interrupted Stay (2019). Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPDS/Downloads/PDPM_Fact_Sheet InterruptedStay_Final_v3_508.pdf

APPROVALS	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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