

# SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

## 5 Easy Steps for Appropriate SNF Utilization

1. What is the appropriate length of stay (LOS) for this patient?
2. Is the SNF directly re-admitting your patients back to hospitals without your knowing?
  - Is a readmission necessary?
3. Does the hospitalist know which SNFs you want your patients going to?
4. Are you ensuring only Preferred SNFs are providing services to your patients?
  - This will aid in managing members overall cost and quality of care.
5. Is your patient undergoing maintenance therapy or functional therapy?
  - Is SNF improving their overall health?
  - For any questions, reach out to your ACO team or the facility's attending provider.

## MEDICARE EXPECTATIONS

### ➤ Skilled Services

- Require the skills of qualified technical or professional health personnel, such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists or audiologists
- Must be provided directly by, or under the general supervision of, these skilled nursing or skilled rehabilitation personnel to ensure the safety of the beneficiary and achieve the medically desired result

### ➤ Skilled services must be:

- Ordered by a physician
- Performed by, or under the supervision of professional or technical personnel
- Rendered for an ongoing condition that arose during the SNF care for that ongoing condition

## COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

- The beneficiary was an **INPATIENT** of a hospital for a medically necessary stay of at least 3 consecutive days
  - Exception if your ACO has a MSSP SNF waiver
- The beneficiary transferred to a Medicare-certified SNF within 30-days after discharge from the hospital unless both of the following are true:
  - Beneficiary's condition makes it medically inappropriate to begin an active course of treatment in a SNF immediately after discharge
  - It is medically predictable at the time of the hospital discharge that the beneficiary will require covered care within a predictable time period
- The beneficiary requires skilled nursing services or skilled rehabilitation services daily
- The services delivered are reasonable and necessary for the treatment of the beneficiary's inpatient illness or injury and are reasonable in terms of duration and quantity

## CONTACT US

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