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# COVID-19 Emergency Declaration & 3-Day Medicare Waiver



Due to the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration, CMS is temporarily waiving the 3-day in-patient hospital stay requirement for patients who meet the skilled need criteria in order to utilize their Medicare benefits. This Waiver is in place for 60 days but may be renewed. CMS is also waiving the requirement of a 60-day break in order to start a new benefit period.

## Referral Considerations When Utilizing the 3-Day Medicare Waiver

Acute Care: Inpatient, Observation, or Emergency Room	Primary Care Office	Assisted Living & Retirement Community	Home Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hemodynamically stable</li> <li>• Needs intravenous fluids, ATB, and/or feedings</li> <li>• Requires enteral feeding</li> <li>• Tracheostomy</li> <li>• Treatment of wounds / wound vac</li> <li>• Hemodialysis</li> <li>• Pleurx drain</li> <li>• JP drains</li> <li>• CAPD patients</li> <li>• Chest tube to gravity</li> <li>• Fall risk</li> <li>• Therapy as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physician determines need for skilled care that is able to be met in SNF vs. acute care hospital</li> <li>• Need for daily skilled services exceeds care available at lesser levels, such as home care</li> <li>• Skilled services available are same as those who admit from an acute care hospital</li> <li>• Observation &amp; management of care plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient evaluated by physician who determines a need for skilled care that is able to be met in SNF vs. acute care hospital</li> <li>• Need for daily skilled services exceeds care available at lesser levels such as home care</li> <li>• Skilled services available are same as those who admit from an acute care hospital</li> <li>• Observation &amp; management of care plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A decline in health, self care or safety identified and physician determines skilled care that is able to be met in SNF vs. acute care hospital</li> <li>• Skilled care being medically necessary and indicated</li> <li>• Skilled services available are same as those who admit from an acute care hospital</li> <li>• Observation &amp; management of care plan</li> </ul>

May admit any patient from any setting, including home, to a SNF without a 3-day qualifying stay **if they meet the following criteria:**

- Must establish a **skilled need**
- Must obtain a **physician's order**

**Please note:** Indiana has not waived the PASRR requirement at this time. A Level One is still required to be completed prior to admission.

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