

# Medicare Guidelines

Which level of post-acute care is right for your Medicare patient?

## Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH)

### PATIENT

- Has a diagnosis and an established plan of care
- Has chronic, severe illness (i.e., multi-system failure, trauma, post-trauma, complex wound care, respiratory needs such as high-flow O<sub>2</sub>, BiPAP, vent weaning)
- Requires services beyond SNF or IRF capabilities
- Needs ICU level or critical care level of care (e.g., management of drips)
- Requires daily physician oversight, such as multiple consults, daily labs and/or telemetry

### REQUIRED LEVEL OF REHAB

No minimum level of rehab required; based on medical condition and patient tolerance

### PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT REQUIRED

Daily

### RANGE OF PHYSICIAN SPECIALTIES

Attending physician plus specialists (e.g., consulting pulmonary, kidney, cardiologist, neurologist, infectious disease, wound, physical medicine, critical care, neuropsychology and rehab)

### LEVEL OF CARE

Acute or intensive care unit (ICU); (not all LTACHs have an ICU)

## Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital (IRF)

### PATIENT

- Needs daily medical management of primary conditions, co-morbidities and prevention of secondary complications
- Needs intensive and coordinated interdisciplinary approach from a minimum of 2 therapists (a combination of physical therapy, occupational therapy and/or speech therapy)
- Has a reasonable expectation of benefiting from intensive rehab and making measurable improvement

### REQUIRED LEVEL OF REHAB

3 hours per day, consisting of a minimum of 2 therapies (a combination of physical therapy, occupational therapy and/or speech therapy)

### PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT REQUIRED

Daily supervision by a rehabilitation physician; physician/patient visits at least 3 days a week

### RANGE OF PHYSICIAN SPECIALTIES

Attending physician plus specialists (e.g., internal medicine, kidney, pulmonary, cardiology, neurology, infectious disease, wound, neuropsychology, psychiatry and critical care)

### LEVEL OF CARE

Acute hospital-level care with a focus on functional rehab and medical management; hospital may have disease-specific certifications

## Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

### PATIENT

- SNF – Higher Level of Care**  
(skilled or sub-acute)
- Requires respiratory support, such as vent/trach or high-flow O<sub>2</sub>
- Needs a non-invasive positive pressure vent
- Needs wound care provided by a provider with wound team certification
- Has end-stage renal disease
- SNF – Lower Level of Care**  
(Patients with skilled need or long-term care patients)
- Needs skilled nursing or therapy staff to treat, manage, observe and evaluate care

### REQUIRED LEVEL OF REHAB

Based on medical condition and available therapists at facility

### PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT REQUIRED

Minimum of once every 30 days

### RANGE OF PHYSICIAN SPECIALTIES

Internal medicine (check facility for additional physician specialties)

### LEVEL OF CARE

**Higher level of care:** Skilled or sub-acute  
**Lower level of care:** Patients with skilled need or long-term care patients

# Clinical Guidelines

## Which level of post-acute care is right for your patient?

### Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH)

Is the patient stable for transfer to LTACH?

Requires "YES" to the following questions:

- The patient has no significant acute hypotension.
- The patient's pain is managed.
- The patient's intake is acceptable.
- The patient has no acute neurologic findings.
- The patient's cardiovascular status and chest findings are stable.
- The patient has complex nursing and daily physician oversight needs.
- The patient has no active bleeding or issues with hemostasis.
- The patient will likely benefit and improve at LTACH.

Is LTACH interdisciplinary care necessary?

Requires "YES" to one or more of the following questions.

- The patient has complex respiratory needs and/or vent management and weaning required AND multiple weaning attempts have been unsuccessful.
- The patient needs complex wound care AND daily clinical supervision.
- The patient's cardiovascular condition requires LTACH.
- The patient requires complex medical management at LTACH.

### Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital (IRF)

Is the patient a candidate for acute inpatient rehab?

Requires "YES" to the following questions.

- If in an acute hospital, does the patient require continued medical management of acute hospital needs?
- Is the patient able to participate in 3 hours of therapy per day for 5 days per week?
- Are there specific goals for patient improvement?
- Does the patient need close medical management at least 3 days per week?

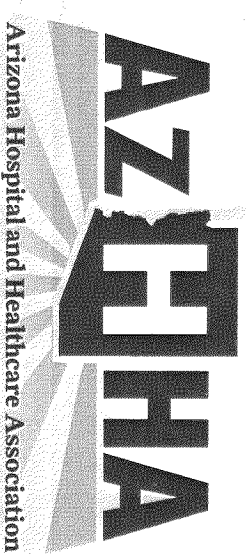
Does the patient need the following?

Requires 2 or more of the following:

- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech therapy
- Orthotics/prosthetics

Does the patient require nursing care?

- Yes
- No



## Post-Acute Care Patient Placement Guide

This Post-Acute Care Patient Placement Guide is designed to help case managers assist families and patients in getting the right level of post-acute care at the right place and the right time.

[azhha.org/pacplacement](http://azhha.org/pacplacement)