

SUBJECT: Providing Exceptions for the Medicare 3 Day Qualifying Policy for SNF

SUBMITTED BY: Cleveland (VII) District Academy of Osteopathic Medicine

REFERRED TO:

1 WHEREAS, the current Medicare guidelines require a 3 day (3-night) stay at a hospital in order  
2 to qualify for care at a skilled nursing facility, and

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4 WHEREAS, there are some patients whose medical clearance/care can be achieved in an  
5 overnight stay or observation care, and

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7 WHEREAS, there is an incredible amount of wasted resources and increased healthcare cost as  
8 delineated by the current criteria, and

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10 WHEREAS, advances in medicine and better overall healthcare has reduced this need, and

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12 WHEREAS, it is more prudent to participate in preventative or proactive care (such as with sub-  
13 acute patients that could benefit from skilled nursing care prior to requiring a full admission),  
14 now, therefore, be it

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16 RESOLVED, that THE OOA PETITION THE CENTER FOR Medicare AND MEDICAID  
17 SERVICES and other insurance agencies with similar statutes look into providing healthcare  
18 teams with rules TO DEVELOP exception guidelines TO THESE RULES THAT WILL  
19 FACILITATE CARE TO BE GIVEN TO APPROPRIATE PATIENTS so that earlier care could  
20 be given in a less intense setting, WITHOUT HAVING TO FULFILL THE 3-DAY RULE,  
21 AND, BE IT FURTHER

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23 RESOLVED, THAT THE OOA FORWARD THIS RESOLUTION TO THE AOA HOUSE OF  
24 DELEGATES, FOR ITS CONSIDERATION.

25 Examples:

26 Generalized weakness in an elderly patient

27 IV antibiotics started in the hospital, patient otherwise stable, can be continued in a SNF

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29 Problems with 3 day stay:

30 Many patients sit in a bed for 3 days despite therapy being ordered, it is truly not as aggressive as  
31 it is at a SNF. Nurses and STNA's at a SNF are better equipped to encourage patients to  
32 participate in other activities and the increased socialization provided in SNF setting is better for  
33 patients.