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## Pop Quizzes and Scenarios from 2/12/2025 SNF Coverage Basics Webinar

*Note – Scenarios in this document are for illustration purposes only.*

### Does it Meet the Qualifying Hospital Stay (QHS) Criteria?

Reference: [CMS Internet Only Manual \(IOM\) Publication 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 8, Section 20.1](#)

1. Beneficiary admitted to an acute care hospital 1/20/2025 and discharged 1/22/2025
  - a. No, this is only a two-day stay since the date of discharge is not counted.
2. Beneficiary in observation status 1/20/2025–1/21/2025, admitted 1/21/2025 and discharged 1/23/2025
  - a. No, this is still only a two-day stay since only the days after a formal admission counts towards the QHS. Time in observation or the emergency department does not.
3. Beneficiary admitted 1/20/2025 and discharged 1/24/2025
  - a. Yes, this is a three-day stay since the date of discharge is not counted.
4. Beneficiary admitted to Hospital #1 on 1/20/2025 and discharged 1/22/2025, then admitted to Hospital #2 on 1/22/2025 and discharged 1/23/2025
  - a. Yes, this is a three-day stay because the QHS requirement can be met by stays totaling three consecutive days in one or more hospitals. Hospital #1 had a two-day stay and Hospital #2 had a one-day stay.

### Does it Meet the 30-Day Transfer Criteria?

Reference: [CMS Internet Only Manual \(IOM\) Publication 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 8, Section 20.1](#)

Beneficiary was discharged from a QHS on 1/20/2025 and

1. admitted that same day to a SNF.
  - a. Yes, this meets the 30-day transfer criteria since the beneficiary was discharged from the hospital and admitted the SNF on the same day.
2. went home until they were admitted to a SNF 2/10/2025.
  - a. Yes, this meets the 30-day transfer criteria since the beneficiary was admitted to the SNF 20 days after discharge.
3. admitted that same day to SNF, where they had a covered SNF IP stay from 1/20/2025–2/1/2025. They were discharged home but then readmitted to the same SNF on 2/26/2025.
  - a. Yes, this meets the 30-day transfer criteria since the only 25 days had lapsed between discharge and readmission.

## Understanding the Benefit Period – Example Scenarios

*Note – Scenarios below are for illustration purposes only. Assumptions are that the beneficiary had not been an inpatient in any facility prior to dates listed below, are not enrolled in an MAO/HMO plan and unless otherwise indicated, met the medical criteria for a covered stay.*

References: [CMS IOM Publication 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 3](#) and [CMS IOM Publication 100-04, Chapter 6, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Section 40.7](#)

### Scenario 1

- Beneficiary had a covered inpatient hospital stay 6/20/2024–7/15/2024
- Admitted to SNF on 7/15/2024 with covered stay, discharge to home on 10/1/2024
- Admitted to hospital for a covered inpatient stay 1/14/2025–1/21/2025
- Admitted to SNF on 1/21/2025

#### **Did the beneficiary have a qualifying hospital stay (QHS) for the 7/15 SNF admission?**

Yes, 6/20–7/15 = 25 days (do not count date of discharge).

#### **Did the beneficiary meet the 30-day transfer criteria?**

Yes, they discharged from the hospital directly to the SNF on 7/15.

#### **When the beneficiary was admitted on 1/21/2025, did they have a new benefit period?**

Yes, they had more than 60 days facility-free. 10/1–1/13 = 105 days.

#### **How many SNF days does the beneficiary have available to use with the 1/21 SNF admission?**

100 SNF days available if the beneficiary also met the medical criteria. The days remaining in the previous benefit period are forfeited.

### Scenario 2

- Beneficiary had a covered inpatient hospital stay 8/20/2024–9/15/2024
- Admitted to SNF on 9/15/2024 with covered stay, discharge to home on 12/1/2024
- Admitted to hospital for a covered inpatient hospital stay 1/28/2025–2/1/2025
- Admitted to SNF 2/1/2025

#### **Did the beneficiary have a QHS for the 9/15 SNF admission?**

Yes, 8/20–9/15 = 26 days (do not count date of discharge).

#### **Did the beneficiary meet the 30-day transfer criteria?**

Yes, they discharged from the hospital directly to the SNF on 9/15.

#### **When the beneficiary was admitted on 2/1, did they have a new benefit period?**

No, they did not have 60 days facility-free or at a nonskilled level of care. 12/1–1/27 = 58 days facility-free.

#### **How many SNF days does the beneficiary have available to use with the 2/1 admission?**

The beneficiary would only have 23 SNF days available if the beneficiary also met the medical criteria, since they had a new QHS. They used 77 days during the earlier covered SNF stay they had within this current benefit period (9/15–11/30 since we don't count date of discharge).

### **Scenario 3**

- Beneficiary had a covered inpatient hospital stay 8/20/2024–9/15/2024
- Admitted to SNF on 9/15/2024 with covered stay, benefits exhausted as of 12/23/2024 and remained at skilled level of care through discharge to hospital on 1/30/2025
- Admitted to hospital for a covered inpatient stay 1/31/2025–2/5/2025
- Readmitted to SNF 2/5/2025

#### **Did the beneficiary have a QHS for the 9/15 SNF admission?**

Yes, 8/20–9/15 = 26 days (do not count date of discharge).

#### **Did the beneficiary meet the 30-day transfer criteria?**

Yes, they discharged from the hospital directly to the SNF on 9/15.

#### **When the beneficiary was readmitted to the SNF on 2/5, did they have a new benefit period?**

No, they did not have 60 days facility-free or at a nonskilled level of care.

#### **How many SNF days does the beneficiary have available to use with the 7/5 admission?**

Zero. They had previously exhausted 100 days in their benefit period and did not have 60 days either facility-free or at a nonskilled level of care (required to be granted a new benefit period).

### **Scenario 4**

- Beneficiary had a covered inpatient hospital stay 8/20/2024–9/15/2024
- Admitted to SNF on 9/15/2024 with covered stay
- Dropped to a noncovered level of care as of 12/1/2024 and remained at noncovered level of care through discharge to hospital on 2/1/2025
- Admitted to hospital for a covered inpatient stay 2/1/2025–2/3/2025
- Readmitted to SNF 2/3/2025 at a covered level of care

#### **Did the beneficiary have a QHS for the 2/3 SNF admission?**

No, 2/1–2/3 = 2 days (do not count date of discharge).

#### **Did the beneficiary meet the 30-day transfer criteria?**

Yes, they discharged from the hospital directly to the SNF on 2/3.

#### **When the beneficiary was admitted on 2/3, did they have a new benefit period?**

Yes, they had 62 days at a nonskilled level of care so they were granted a new benefit period.

#### **How many SNF days does the beneficiary have available to use with the 7/2 admission?**

Beneficiary has a new benefit period (100 days) because they had more than 60 days at a nonskilled level of care. However, since the covered inpatient hospital stay was only 2 days it is not considered a QHS and the stay cannot be covered, even though the beneficiary met the 30-day transfer criteria and even if they met the medical requirements for coverage.