

Three-Day Skilled Nursing Facility Rule Waiver

This Medicare beneficiary service allows Next Generation ACOs and approved skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), or short-term nursing facilities, a waiver of the Medicare rule requiring a three-day stay in an inpatient hospital, acute-care hospital, or critical access hospital (CAH) prior to admission to a skilled nursing facility. In other words, this waiver allows for a Medicare patient, aligned to a Next Generation ACO that is participating in the waiver, admission to approved SNFs from their home, a physician's office, or an observation status in the emergency room; or when they have been in the hospital for fewer than three days.

Further, an aligned Next Generation ACO beneficiary will be eligible to use the waiver if: (1) the beneficiary does not reside in a nursing home or skilled nursing facility for long-term care when admitted to a SNF; and (2) the beneficiary meets all other CMS criteria for SNF admission, including:

- being medically stable;
- having confirmed diagnoses (e.g., does not have conditions requiring further testing for proper diagnosis);
- not requiring inpatient hospital evaluation or treatment; and
- having an identified skilled nursing or rehabilitation need that cannot be provided on an outpatient basis or through home health services.

Skilled nursing facilities must have an overall rating of three or more stars under the CMS Five-Star Nursing Home Quality Rating System.