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Making the Two-Midnight Rule Work for You

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FACULTY

Toni G. Cesta, Ph.D., RN, FAAN is a founding partner of Case Management Concepts, LLC, a consulting company that assists institutions in designing, implementing and evaluating case management models, new documentation systems, and other strategies for improving care and reducing costs. Dr. Cesta is the author of eight books, a frequently sought-after speaker, lecturer and consultant and is considered one of the primary thought leaders in the field of case management. Dr. Cesta also writes a monthly column called "Case Management Insider" in AHC Media's Hospital Case Management newsletter in which she shares insights and information on current issues and trends in case management.

Dr. Cesta has been active in the research and development of case management for over 20 years. Her research in case management has included two funded studies measuring the effects of a case management model on congestive heart failure and fractured hip patient populations, with measures of patient satisfaction, quality of life, and short and long term clinical perceptions and outcomes.

Dr. Cesta has presented topics on case management at national and international conferences and workshops. She has published extensively including the fourth edition of her book, "Nursing Case Management: From Essentials to Advanced Practice Applications," the second edition of "The Case Manager's Survival Guide: Winning Strategies for Clinical Practice" which won the AHA Book of the Year award, "Survival Strategies for Nurses in Managed Care" and her newest book, "Core Skills for Hospital Case Managers".

Bev Cunningham, RN, MS is a founding partner of Case Management Concepts, LLC. She has a 25-year deep working knowledge of case management with specific expertise in details management, patient flow and the role of the Case Manager. She is a Social Worker in the Case Management process. She has served as a Commissioner on the Commission for Case Management Certification and is a fellow with the Advisory Board.

Bev is also former Vice President Resource Management at MedStar City Dallas Hospital where she had responsibility for Case Management, Health Information Management, Patient Admittance, Physician Integration and Solid Organ Transplant. Prior to her position as Vice President, Bev served as Regional Director of Clinical Effectiveness for Mercy Health Partners, Phoenix, AZ. In this role she directed the Case Management, Quality Management, and Professional Services Departments. She also served eight years as a consultant, assisting hospitals in implementing, evaluating and improving their case management programs. As a Clinical Research Professor for the Master of Nursing Program at the University of Oklahoma, she coached students in their clinical practicum. Bev continues to mentor students in a Master's of Healthcare Administration program.

Bev is a well-known speaker in the Case Management field. Her publications include a chapter, CMS's Core Curriculum for Case Management Certification and model forms, as a member of the book, Core Skills for Hospital Case Management. Bev has a BSN from Pennsylvania State University, Pittsburg, Kansas and a Master of Science, Nursing Major, from the University of Oklahoma.

OBJECTIVES

- Explain the requirements for billing two-midnight rule patients.
- Compare the two-midnight requirements and exceptions.
- Explain new and revised case management standards, regulations, and laws put forth by CMS, TJC and the federal government.
- Evaluate case management protocols and penalties.

Medicare 2014 IPPS Final Rule – Two Midnight Rule

Final IPPS Rule (CMS-1599-F) (August 19, 2013) introduced the "Two Midnight Rule" as the new Medicare inpatient payment standard: Surgical procedures, diagnostic tests, and other treatments are generally appropriate for inpatient hospital payment under Medicare Part A only when:

- Physician expects the patient to require a stay that crosses at least two midnights, and
- Admits the patient to the hospital based on that expectation.

Scope of Rule: Acute Care Hospitals, CAHs, LTCHs, Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals; Traditional Medicare only



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Medicare Law and Guidance for Admitted Patients

Medicare Benefits Policy Manual, Chapter 1, Section 10 – Definition of "Inpatient"

"An Inpatient is a person who has been admitted to a hospital for bed occupancy for purposes of receiving inpatient hospital services. Generally, a patient is considered an inpatient if formally admitted as an inpatient **with the expectation that he or she will remain at least overnight and occupy a bed** even though it later develops that the patient can be discharged or transferred to another hospital and not actually use a hospital bed overnight. . . . The physician or other practitioner responsible for a patient's care is responsible for deciding whether the patient should be admitted as an inpatient. Physicians should use a **24-hour period as a benchmark**. However, the decision to admit a patient is a complex medical judgment which can be made only after the physician has considered a number of factors, including the patient's medical history and current medical needs, the types of facilities available to inpatients and to outpatients, the hospital's by-laws and admissions policies, and the relative appropriateness of treatment in each setting."



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Major Changes With 2 Midnight Rule



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Time-based Inpatient Admission and the 24 Hour Benchmark

- Inpatient admission is defined by a patient requiring a hospitalization spanning 2 midnights
- Applies to the 24 hours that starts at midnight of first calendar day patient is in a hospital bed—to the second midnight



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Start Clock for Presumption

Two-Midnight **Presumption** starts with the inpatient order and formal admission

"Remember that while the total time in the hospital may be taken into consideration when the physician is making an admission decision (i.e. expectation of hospital care for 2 or more midnights), the inpatient admission does not begin until the inpatient order and formal admission occur."

MLN Connects January 14, 2014 Presentation



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Who Can Furnish an Admission Order

Admission Order must be written by a qualified physician/practitioner with "sufficient knowledge" of the patient's condition--

- Licensed by the state to admit inpatients
- Granted privileges by the hospital to admit patients
- Knowledgeable about the patient
- Not required to be the certifying practitioner
- May include medical residents and other non-physician practitioners who (i) are exercising independent judgment, (ii) are authorized by law to admit patients and (iii) have admitting privileges (no countersignature required)
- Medical residents, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, other non-physician practitioners or physicians **without** admitting privileges may act as a proxy if
 - authorized under state law, and
 - admitting physician approves decision and countersigns order prior to patient discharge
- Example: ED physician without admitting privileges must have order countersigned by admitting physician prior to patient discharge



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Verbal Admission Orders

- Practitioners **without admitting** authority, such as nurses, may be permitted to accept and record verbal orders at their hospital
- Verbal order must identify the qualified ordering practitioner
- Qualified ordering practitioner must directly communicate the order
- Qualified ordering practitioner must countersign the order as written to authenticate the order
- Inpatient time starts with the verbal order, if authenticated prior to discharge
- State laws, hospital policies and bylaws, rules and regulations governing verbal orders must be met (See 42 CFR 482.24(c)(2))

Note: If a verbal order is not authenticated then the "hospital stay may be billed to Part B as a hospital **outpatient** encounter," because patient was never an inpatient.



Standing Orders and Protocols

	A standing order may not serve as an order for inpatient admission
	A protocol or algorithm may be used in considering inpatient admission (See 42 CFR 482.24(c)(3))
	Only the ordering practitioner or practitioner acting on the ordering practitioner's behalf (e.g., resident) may make and take responsibility for an admission decision



Physician Order

 <p>For payment of hospital inpatient services under Medicare Part A, the order must specify "admit to inpatient", "admit as an inpatient", "admit for inpatient services" or similar language</p>	 <p>"Admit to ICU" or "Admit to PCU" are no longer acceptable – must default to outpatient billing</p>
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Page 50949 IPPS Final Rule for 2014

Admission Certification

- Authentication of admission order, including certifying that services were reasonable and necessary
- Medical reason for inpatient admission
- Expected length of stay
- Plans for inpatient care and services
- Plans for post-hospital care
- CMS noted that "generally good medical record documentation may fulfill components required for certification"



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Timing of Certification

- Certification begins with inpatient admission order
- Certification must be completed, signed, dated and documented **prior to patient discharge**



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Certification Format

No specific procedure or format is required or provided by CMS

CMS indicates that the components of certification may be found in various parts of the medical record



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CMS DISCUSSION OF MEDICAL NECESSITY

CMS assumed that a hospital stay of at least 2 midnights qualifies as an inpatient stay however...



...auditors were told by CMS to watch for hospitals and physicians who are gaming the system to generate inpatient stays



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Observation Changes

Observation is still <24 hours

- After 1 midnight all observation patients should be discharged or advanced to inpatient
- An observation midnight counts towards inpatient
- There should rarely be any 2 midnight (or longer) observation stays



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Role of Medical Necessity Criteria

CMS Guidance At Time Of Final Rule

"We are anticipating that most hospitals will choose not to use Interqual or Milliman to make the decision about whether or not to write the inpatient order. Instead, we're expecting that most hospitals are going to look to the guidance in this rule about the physician's expectation of a 2-midnight or more stay in the hospital requiring the hospital-level of care."

CMS FAQ ("2 Midnight Inpatient Admission Guidance & Patient Status Reviews for Admissions on or after 10/1/2013")

Q4.1—What documentation will Medicare contractors expect to support expectation of 2-midnights?

A4.1: Expected LOS and underlying medical necessity of care at hospital must be supported by complex medical factors such as history and comorbidities, severity of signs and symptoms, current medical needs and risk of adverse event.



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THIS LEFT SUBSTANTIAL
DIFFERENCES IN
INTERPRETATION

DIFFERENCES AMONG
HOSPITAL, PHYSICIANS
AND RAC



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Under the 2 Midnight Rule

1 ER midnight + 1 inpatient midnight =
inpatient admission

1 observation midnight + 1 inpatient
midnight = inpatient admission

2 inpatient midnights = inpatient admission

2 observation midnights = observation
service



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Exceptions to 2 Midnight Rule

Exceptions to the Two Midnight Requirement for Inpatient Admission - **Unforeseen Circumstances**

- Unforeseen circumstances may result in a shorter beneficiary stay than the physician's expectation (that the beneficiary would require a stay greater than two midnights)
- Death
- Transfer
- Departure against medical advice (AMA)
- Unforeseen recovery
- Election of hospice care

• Such claims **may** be considered appropriate for hospital inpatient payment

The physician's expectation and any unforeseen interruptions in care must be documented in the medical record



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Inpatient-Only Surgery

Inpatient-only surgeries do not require 2 midnights in the hospital

There are no time specifications for inpatient-only surgeries



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Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Placement

SNF placement still requires 3 inpatient midnights

ED or observation midnights do NOT count toward meeting CMS SNF inpatient stay regulation



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Hospital Obligation To Self Audit Inpatient Claims

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111-148, Section 6402, 42 U.S.C. 1320b-7k(d)

Reporting and Returning of Overpayments—

In general, if a person has received an overpayment, the person shall—

- (A) report and return the overpayment to the Secretary, the State, an intermediary, a carrier, or a contractor, as appropriate, at the correct address; and
- (B) notify the Secretary, State, intermediary, carrier, or contractor to whom the overpayment was returned in writing of the reason for the overpayment.

The term "overpayment" means any funds that a person receives or retains under title XVIII (i.e. Medicare) or XIX (i.e. Medicaid) to which the person, after applicable reconciliation, is not entitled under such title.



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**Condition Code (CC) 44:
Criteria for Changing Patient Status**

CC 44 may be used only if all the following requirements are met:

- The UR committee determines that a patient was admitted erroneously
- The patient status change is made prior to patient discharge
- The hospital has not submitted a claim to Medicare for the inpatient admission
- A physician responsible for the care of the patient concurs with the UR committee's decision
- The physician's concurrence is documented in the patient's record
- The patient must be notified in writing of the change in status

One physician member of the UR committee may make the determination for the committee that the inpatient admission was not medically necessary if that physician is different from the 'concurring' physician.

If hospital changes patient status, then the patient's treating physician should make a similar change to make hospital and physician claim submission consistent.



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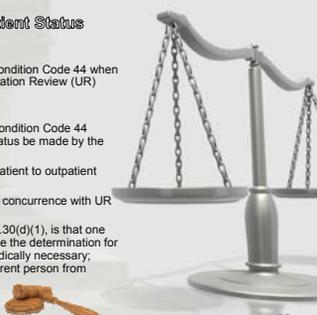
Condition Code 44: Changing Patient Status

CMS FAQ

Q: May a hospital change a patient's status using Condition Code 44 when a physician changes the patient's status without Utilization Review (UR) committee involvement?

A:

- No-policy for changing a patient's status using Condition Code 44 requires that determination to change patient's status be made by the UR committee with physician concurrence
- Hospital may not change patient's status from inpatient to outpatient without UR committee involvement
- Conditions for the use of CC 44 require physician concurrence with UR committee decision
- CMS guidance, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. 482.30(d)(1), is that one physician member of the UR committee may make the determination for the committee that inpatient admission is not medically necessary; physician member of UR committee must be different person from physician responsible for the care of the patient



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Scope of Part B Inpatient Billing

Per 42 CFR 414.5(a), CMS will allow Part B payment of all hospital services that were furnished and would have been reasonable and necessary if the beneficiary had been treated as an outpatient rather than admitted as an inpatient—

- Services paid under Hospital Outpatient PPS that do not require outpatient status
- PT/OT/Speech Language Pathology Services
- Ambulance Services
- Non-implantable DME and prosthetics and orthotics
- Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Services
- Screening and Diagnostic Mammography Services
- Annual Wellness Visit



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2016 Outpatient Prospective System *Proposed Rule*

- 2 midnight rule essentially did not change
- Expanded acceptable inpatient admissions not spanning 2 midnights
 - Admission would be acceptable on a case-by-case basis
- Enforcement of rule to shift from RAC to Beneficiary and Family Centered Care–Quality Improvement Organizations (BFCC-QIO)
- CMS invited comments on specific medical criteria to be used (or not to be used) with 2 midnight rule



Acceptable One Day Stays

- Depends on judgement by physician
- Depends on documentation to justify stay
- CMS will consider the following
 - Severity of signs and symptoms exhibited by patient
 - Medical predictability of adverse events
- CMS expects these to be rare
- These types of admissions will be monitored and reviewed, if appropriate



QIO 2 Midnight Stay Review

- Educate physicians and hospitals
- Enforcement of 2 midnight rule
- Viewed as positive change by CMS



OPPS Proposed Rule:
2 Midnight Rule

- Comments were received until August 31, 2015
- Final rule expected in early November



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QIO STRATEGIES: KEPRO

Revised Medical Review Strategy

- October 1-December 31 QIO reviews based on current CMS payment policies
MACs completing any final education
- Beginning January 1, 2016 reviews will be based on any OPPS policy changes in the 2016 FY final rules
Referrals to RACs as necessary



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QIO STRATEGIES: KEPRO

- Claims to be reviewed will be submitted monthly to QIO by CMS
- No IP only procedures will be reviewed
- 10 claims biannually for small hospitals
- 25 claims biannually for large hospitals
- Hospitals have 45 days to submit records with reminder at 15 days



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QIO STRATEGIES: KEPRO

"BFCC-QIO will review for:

Medical necessity

- Will use commercial screening tool (InterQual®) for initial screening
- Will use physician reviewers for all claims that fail initial screening
- Physician Reviewers will use best medical judgement to determine the medical necessity or admission
 - **Application of Two-Midnight benchmark**
 - **Quality of care and coding validation reviews as needed**



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QIO STRATEGIES: KEPRO

Results stratification

- **Minor concern:** • Provider with error rate of <10% and no pattern of errors -
- **Moderate-significant concern:** • Provider with error rate of 10-20%
- **Major concern:** • Provider with error rate of >20%



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Two Midnight Rule Impact on the Medicare Beneficiary

- Potential Increased Beneficiary Liability for 20% Part B Copay and 100% of the cost for self-administered drugs
- CMS has indicated that even patients receiving ICU services are not considered appropriate for inpatient admission unless physician expects stay to last two midnights->could lead to very large copays
- Qualifying stay for SNF Part A coverage: Time spent in hospital receiving outpatient services (e.g., observation) counts towards the Two-Midnight Benchmark for admission purposes, but does not count towards required 3-day inpatient stay for SNF coverage
- General beneficiary confusion as to patient status and payment obligations (especially with regard to rebilling Part A to Part B)



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Impact on Beneficiaries: Co-Insurance and Deductibles

Any Co-Insurance or Deductible collected for the Part A claim must be refunded to the beneficiary

CMS in the preamble to the Final Rule refused to provide authority for hospitals to

- Offset Part B beneficiary liability against Part A deductible, or
- Waive Part B beneficiary liability for copayments and non-covered items and services



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CMS Examples of Common Denials From Probe and Educate Reviews

- Missing or flawed inpatient admission order—Admission order did not clearly express intent to admit as inpatient
- Short-stay procedures not on the inpatient-only list—patient underwent procedure with average LOS of less than two midnights, and no physician documentation to support greater than 2 midnight stay
- Short stays for medical conditions when the record fails to support an expectation of two midnights—patient presented with dizziness and physician's notes indicate that the physician intended to observe the patient overnight to monitor the effects of a medication change
- Physician attestation statements without supporting medical record documentation—preprinted statement that patient expected to require two midnights of hospital care was not supported by medical record entry, for example progress note stating discharge in morning if stable



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2 Midnight Rule Compliance Strategies

Re-educate your hospital

- Physicians
 - High volume admitters
 - ED Physicians
 - Hospitalists
 - Intensivists
 - CMO
 - Physician advisors
- Case managers
- Nursing supervisors
- Bed board nurses
- Key nursing staff
- UR Committee members
- CDI staff
- Transfer center nursing staff
- UR Committee



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**KEY COLLABORATORS
TO MANAGE OBSERVATION STAYS:**

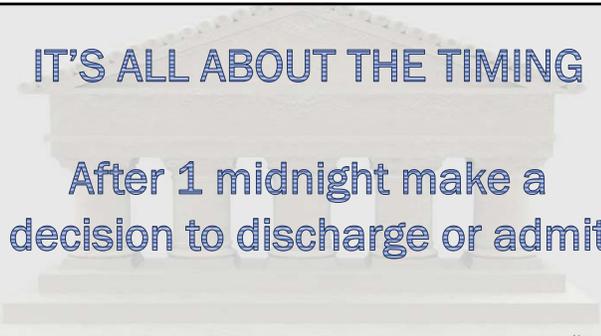


**PHYSICIANS
CASE MANAGEMENT
NURSING
ANCILLARY SERVICE**

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE TIMING

**After 1 midnight make a
decision to discharge or admit**



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2 Midnight Rule Compliance Strategies, cont'd

- Develop/review written procedures for implementation of 2 midnight rule (and Condition Code 44)
- Place hardwired stops in computerized physician order entry (CPOE) system to assure requirement of admission order and discussion of expected stay
- If CPOE not fully developed, encourage physicians to use the term "admit" only when admitting a patient as inpatient
 - Admit to inpatient
 - Admit as inpatient
 - Admit for inpatient services
- Implement a case management process to assist physicians in managing patient status to effectively transition patients to either inpatient status or discharge when admitted for observation
- Re-educate case management staff, finance, and UR Committee, and physicians on Condition Code 44 requirements



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2 Midnight Rule Compliance Strategies, cont'd

- Review all inpatient admissions for with average LOS of less than two midnights by DRG—to understand trends in short stays (by both DRG and physician)
- Assure all Hospital/Medical Staff policies on admitting privileges and verbal orders match the requirements of the 2 midnight rule
- Assure optimal use of physician advisors
- Monitor changes in Medicare guidance regarding inpatient status and medical necessity
- Assure optimal role of appeal coordinator to work with Finance/Revenue Integrity Department



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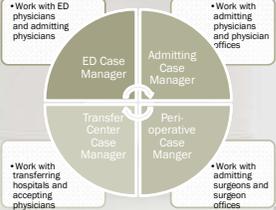
2 Midnight Rule Compliance Strategies, cont'd

- Develop a pre-bill edit to hold Medicare inpatient claims that are one-day stays (may also want to review two-day stays)
- Implement self audit process for all one and two day stays for traditional Medical patients
- Provide feedback to physicians and case managers regarding deficiencies in documentation and length of stay
- Consider key case management roles, such as perioperative case manager, ED case manager, admissions case manager, transfer center case manager



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Role of Specialized Case Managers in 2 Midnight Rule Implementation



- ED Case Manager**
 - Work with ED physicians and admitting physicians
- Admitting Case Manager**
 - Work with admitting physicians and physician offices
- Peri-operative Case Manager**
 - Work with admitting surgeons and surgeon offices
- Transfer Center Case Manager**
 - Work with transferring hospitals and accepting physicians



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Self Audits of All One and Two Day Stays for Traditional Medicare Patients



- 1 Accurate admission order
- 2 Expected duration of stay
- 3 Reason for inpatient treatment (medical necessity), including severity or exacerbation of any chronic symptoms, clinical evidence, risk of negative outcome
- 4 Detailed plan of care
- 5 Anticipated plans for post-discharge care

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Sample Self Audit: 1-2 day stays

Audit Metric	Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	Patient 4
Physician order accurate				
Expected duration of stay documented				
Reason for inpatient stay documented				
Plan for inpatient care				
Plan for post-hospital care				
Physician order certification prior to patient discharge				

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American Hospital Association (AHA) Letter to CMS With Suggested Potential Solutions

- Requested extension of policy until either October 1, 2015 or implementation of a short stay payment policy
- RAC reform: realign financial RAC incentives so they cannot deny claims "inappropriately an excessively"
- Short stay payment policies
- Evaluation of payment for observation care, which does not cover hospital costs

Sent February 2015

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AHA Short Stay Payment (SSP) Policy Models

- Considered transfer policy-based SSP, but decided it was not an option for reimbursing short inpatient hospital stays
- 5 additional SSP policy models
- Creation of new short-stay DRGs for IP hospital stays spanning less than 2 midnights
- Budget neutral to CMS
- Uses current weigh-setting methodology
- Had to use most recent MedPAR data, which was from FY 2013 (before 2 midnight rule implemented in FY 2014)
- Does not include behavior changes that might be made by hospitals



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MODEL	DESCRIPTION	SHORT-STAY DRGS
MDC (Major diagnostic category)	1 short-stay DRG for each MDC	26
MDC M/S (medical/surgical)	One short-stay DRG for all of the medical DRGs within an MDC and another short-stay DRG for all of the surgical DRGs within an MDC	49
Targeted DRGs	One short-stay and one non-short-stay DRG for the DRGs with the most short stays or RAC denials	61
Base DRG	One short-stay DRG for each base DRG	333
DRG Refinement	One short-stay DRG for each DRG	739

AHA Short Stay Payment (SSP) Policy Models



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Sample Targeted DRGs

Carotid artery stent	Acute MI expired
Extracranial procedures	Heart failure and shock
Intracranial hemorrhage or cerebral infarction	Cardiac arrest, unexplained
TIA	Atherosclerosis
Intraocular procedures	Hypertension
Sinus and mastoid procedures	Cardiac arrhythmias
Salivary gland procedures	Syncope & collapse
Disequilibrium	Chest pain
COPD	Appendectomy
Simple pneumonia & pleurisy	GI hemorrhage
Respiratory signs & symptoms	Esophagitis, gastroent & miscellaneous
Major cardiovascular procedures	digestive disorders
Drug-eluting stents	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy
Other vascular procedures	Cervical spinal fusion
	TURP

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2 MIDNIGHT RULE DASHBOARD

Metric	EPL	Month 1 Results	Month 2 Results	Month 3 Results	YTD Results
% Accurate Orders					
% Documented Expected LOS					
% Documented medical necessity					
% Documented discharge plan					
% Order authenticated before discharge					
% Accounts with Condition Code 44 billed					
% of Condition Code 44 accounts billed that have accurate supporting documentation					
% of 1 day stay self denials					
% of 2 day stay self denials					
% of 1 and 2 day stay self denials					



RESOURCES

- Final 2 midnight rule CMS-1599 (August 2013)
- Medicare Benefits Policy, Chapter 1, Section 10
- MLN Connects, January 14, 2014 Presentation: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events/Items/2014-01-14-midnight.html>
- 42 CFR 412.3 (Final rule regarding physician certification): <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=6153f6aa2d70d17640867c003e18e2e2&node=se42.2.412.3&rgn=div5%20%3E>
- CMS Guidance: Hospital Inpatient Admission Order and Certification issued on September 5, 2013 and updated on January 30, 2014
- Condition Code 44: CMS Transmittal 299 (September 10, 2004) and Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 1, Section 50.3, and 42 C.F.R. 482.30(d)(1)



RESOURCES

- Probe and educate process: MLN Matters Number: SE1403
- CMS IOM-002 Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 6, Section 20.6B, "Coverage of Outpatient Observation Services"
- Social Security Act 1862 (a) (1) (A)
- MLN Matters SE 1333, Revised: Part A to Part B Billing of Denied Hospital Inpatient Claims: <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network/mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/se1403.pdf>
- Verbal orders, 42 CFR 482.2(c)(2): <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/42/482.24>



RESOURCES

- CMS Guidance: Hospital Inpatient Admission Order and Certification issued on September 5, 2013 and updated on January 30, 2014
- Society for Hospital Medicine, July 2014, "The Observation Status Problem—Impacts and Recommendations for Change"
- Probe and educate updates, appeals processes: www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-and-systems/monitoring-programs/Medicare
- Transfers: CMS 2 Midnight Rule FAQ 2.2: http://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-and-systems/monitoring-programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Medical-Review/Downloads/Questions_andAnswersRelatingtoPatientsTatusReviewsforPosting_31214.pdf



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THANKS FOR JOINING US! IT'S TIME FOR QUESTIONS

Thank you!

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