

12.10 Transitional Care Admissions (Subacute and SNF)

A transitional level of care is available in the following types of settings:

Medical/Subacute Level of Care

Definition of patient types:

A **subacute patient** is a medically complex patient who qualifies for acute hospitalization, but does not require the high technology of the acute hospital. Subacute care requires the coordinated services of an interdisciplinary team including physicians, nurses and other relevant professional disciplines.

An **acute rehabilitation** patient is one who requires the care of an interdisciplinary team, has a good rehabilitation potential, and can tolerate at least three hours of therapy a day.

Admission criteria to the medical/subacute unit:

- Patient has a subacute/medical need or short-term rehabilitation need.
- Services needed cannot be performed in a less intensive setting, e.g., home health or outpatient setting.
- Patient may have failed in his/her home environment with alternative, less intensive services.
- Subacute setting can meet patient's needs. The rehab admissions service can provide you with specific admission criteria (contracted Medical Rehabilitation Center facilities can be found in our online directories).
- Admissions can occur as a transfer from an acute or skilled/custodial facility, an emergency room, urgent care, or from a surgery center. Admission services case managers will assist with referral to a facility.
- The patient must be evaluated by a physician prior to a direct admission.

All admissions require:

- Physician orders and transfer summary completed by the transferring physician (ER/UC/PCP)
- Chest x-ray or orders for a portable x-ray on admission.

Patients that are in the medical subacute level of care are to be seen by the attending physician daily.

Skilled Care/Skilled Rehabilitation Level of Care

Definition of patient types:

A **skilled rehabilitation** patient is a patient who requires at least one therapy a day to increase his/her level of functioning, is alert and able to follow instructions.

A **skilled nursing** patient is a patient, who regardless of age, meets Medicare Part A skilled criteria and cannot be managed effectively at home.

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Admission to the **skilled care or skilled rehabilitation** is coordinated through the facility admissions service. These criteria are in accordance with the Medicare definition of skilled care and skilled rehabilitation.

Patients admitted to a SNF/subacute rehabilitation should be seen by the attending physician no less than weekly.

Custodial Level of Care

Definition of patient types:

A **group care** patient is one who is independently mobile but cannot be at home due to inability to provide own meals, handle medications or finances.

An **intermediate nursing facility** patient is one who is unable to be maintained at home; requires assistance with ADLS (bathing, dressing, transferring, ambulating), as well as with IADLs (shopping, homemaking, etc.); and does not meet any skilled Medicare criteria.

Admission to the **custodial level** of care can be made by contacting the nursing facility directly. The facility will then notify HPN of the admission.