Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Services

**Description**

Inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs) are “free standing rehabilitation hospitals and rehabilitation units in acute care hospitals. They provide an intensive rehabilitation program and patients who are admitted must be able to tolerate three hours of intense rehabilitation services per day.”[1]

**Medicare Advantage Policy Criteria**

**Note:** This policy does not apply to skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. The Medicare Advantage Medical Policy, M-UM08, addresses these services (see Cross References).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Admission Reviews</th>
<th>Continued Stay Reviews</th>
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See also the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 3 - Inpatient Hospital Billing, §140.1.1 - Criteria That Must Be Met By Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, C. List of Medical Conditions, for a list of medical conditions that may require intensive rehabilitative services. **Important note:** “IRF care is only considered by Medicare to be reasonable and necessary under 1862(a)(1)(A) if the patient meets all of the requirements… interpreted in Chapter 1, Section 110 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual. This is true regardless of whether the patient is treated in the IRF for 1 or more of the 13 medical conditions listed in 42 CFR 412.23(b)(2)(iii) or not.”(2) **Therefore, inclusion of a medical condition on this list does not imply automatic coverage. All applicable criteria from Section 110 (above) must still be satisfied.**

**Note:** Please read all applicable sections and subsections, in their entirety, for complete criteria details.

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**POLICY GUIDELINES**

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

The information below **must** be submitted for review to determine whether policy criteria are met. If any of these items are not submitted, it could impact our review and decision outcome:

- The IRF medical record should include components such as, but not limited to, the following:
  - Pre-admission screening, post-admission physician evaluation, and individualized care plan and admission orders;
  - Therapeutic goals set for the individual member;
  - The active and ongoing therapeutic intervention of multiple therapy disciplines (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, or prosthetics/orthotics) anticipated to be provided (prior to admission) and those that are provided during the course of the IRF stay (after admission);
  - The patient’s response to the services provided during the course of the admission;
- Any other pertinent characteristics of the beneficiary.

**CROSS REFERENCES**

_Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Services_, Utilization Management, Policy No. M-08

**REFERENCES**

1. Medicare Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities web page
2. 42 CFR 412.23(b)(2)(iii)
3. Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Matters® Number: MM6699 Revised
4. Fact Sheet #1, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Classification Requirements (see section for “Changes to the List of Medical Conditions Requiring Intensive Rehabilitative Services”)

**CODING**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Codes</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
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<td>HCPCS</td>
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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Medicare Advantage medical policies use the most current Medicare references available at the time the policy was developed. Links to Medicare references will take viewers to external websites outside of the health plan's web control as these sites are not maintained by the health plan.