NURSING FACILITY GUIDELINE

(for Skilled Nursing Facility or Subacute Facility)

Recovery facility (i.e., skilled nursing or subacute care) care is indicated by ALL of the following :

A. Absence of acute hospital care needs.
B. Intensity and complexity of needs that require inpatient care.
C. Services of technical or professional personnel such as RN, physical therapist (PT), occupational therapist (OT), or speech-language pathologist (SLP) needed for ALL of the following:
    1. Care plan management and evaluation to meet patient needs, promote recovery, and ensure safety.
    2. Observation and assessment of patient's changing condition to evaluate need for treatment modification or for additional procedures until condition stabilized.
    3. Education services to teach patient self-care or to teach caregiver patient care.
    4. Multiple skilled treatments required at least daily. Skilled services include one or more of the following:
        a. Nursing services (must include one or more of the following):
            i. Dressing changes that require use of prescription medication or aseptic technique.
            ii. Patient requires enteral feeding that comprises at least 25% of daily caloric requirements and at least 50 mL of daily fluid intake.
            iii. Extensive decubitus ulcer(s) or widespread skin disorder treatments.
            iv. Heat treatments that require nurse observation to evaluate response.
            v. Oxygen administration.
            vi. Intravenous (IV) infusion (e.g., fluids, antibiotics, parenteral nutrition).
            vii. Nasopharyngeal or tracheostomy suctioning.
            viii. Pain management.
            ix. Restorative nursing services, including training, care, and assistance in one or more of the following:
                - Exercise program
                - Safe performance of activities of daily living
                - Management of cast, brace, or orthotics
                - Bowel or bladder training
            x. Suprapubic catheter care.
        b. Therapy services needed (one or more of the following):
            i. Gait training.
            ii. Ongoing physical therapy assessments.
            iii. Prosthetic training.
            iv. Speech and or swallowing therapy.
            v. Exercises or activities supervision to ensure patient safety.

Not Medically Necessary

A skilled nursing facility (SNF) setting is considered not medically necessary when any one of the following is present:

A. Services do not meet the medically necessary criteria above; or
B. The individual's condition has changed such that skilled medical or rehabilitative care is no longer needed; or
C. Physical medicine therapy or rehabilitation services in which there is not a practical improvement in the level of functioning within a reasonable period of time; or
D. Services that are solely performed to preserve the present level of function or prevent regression of functions for an illness, injury or condition that is resolved or stable; or
E. The individual refuses to participate in the recommended treatment plan; or
F. Care is initially or has become custodial; or
G. The services are provided by a family member or another non-medical person. When a service can be safely and effectively self-administered or performed by the average non-medical person without the direct supervision of a nurse, the service cannot be regarded as a skilled service.

References

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "Examples of skilled nursing and rehabilitation services." 42 CFR Pt. 409.33 Washington, DC 2011 Oct 1 Available at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/ Accessed June 7, 2016.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "Criteria for skilled services and the need for skilled service." 42 CFR Pt. 409.32 Washington, DC 2011 Oct Available at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/ Accessed June 7, 2016.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Skilled Nursing Facility Manual. Revised September 2005. Available at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov Accessed on June 7, 2016.

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