

Information for Medicare Next Generation ACO Beneficiaries and Caregivers about the 3-Day Skilled Nursing Facility Rule Waiver

Under traditional Medicare, people needing short-term Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) care require a 3-day qualifying inpatient hospital stay for the SNF admission to be covered under Part A Medicare. The 3-Day SNF Rule Waiver allows a Medicare beneficiary aligned to a Next Generation Accountable Care Organization (ACO), in this case CHESS NextGen, that is participating in the waiver, to be admitted to an approved SNF from any outpatient setting, including their home, a physician's office, Emergency Department or observation status, or from an inpatient hospital stay of fewer than 3 days.

The Next Generation ACO beneficiary is eligible for admission under this waiver if:

- (1) they do not reside in a nursing home or SNF for long-term care when admitted to a SNF; and
- (2) they meet all other Medicare criteria for SNF admission.

The beneficiary must:

- be medically stable;
- have confirmed diagnoses (does not have conditions requiring further testing for the proper diagnosis);
- be evaluated by a provider within three days of the SNF admission;
- not require inpatient hospital evaluation or treatment; and
- have an identified skilled nursing or rehabilitation need that cannot be provided on an outpatient basis or through home health services.

The eligible SNFs for this waiver must have an overall rating of three or more stars under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Five-Star Nursing Home Quality Rating System for seven(7) of the previous 12 months at the time of the CMS review:

<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

A list of the approved facilities for use of this waiver will be provided to you upon request.