

COVID-19: FAQ 3 Day Qualifying Hospital Stay



On Friday, March 13th, 2020, the Trump Administration announced some regulatory flexibility to assist healthcare providers combat and contain the COVID-19 virus. The Trump Administration empowered CMS to take action thru several waivers made available. These waivers took effect immediately.

Q: Is a 3 day qualifying hospital stay required?

A: At this time, CMS is waiving the requirement that requires a 3 day qualifying hospital stay for coverage of a skilled nursing facility stay for those individuals that need to be transferred as a result of the effect of this emergency. Residents can be admitted straight from the ER or home to our facilities and be a skilled resident.

Q: What if resident/patient has already exhausted their 100 day benefit?

A: Residents exhausting their current benefit period (using up their 100 days) will be eligible for a new benefit period without the normal 60-day break in skilled nursing services.

Q: Are Medicare Advantage Plans included in this waiver program?

A: Yes they are included; however, we MUST contact the advantage plans for authorization under this new rule change. Please continue to contact the HOMCAT team for authorization needs.

Q: How does the 3 day waiver need to be documented in MatrixCare?

A: The BOM will need to enter the "DR" as a condition code along with the admission date into Resident>Billing Codes section of MatrixCare. The BOM will also need to enter a Treatment Authorization Code of "75" along with the admission date into Resident>Billing Codes section of MatrixCare.

Q: How long is this waiver in effect?

A: The waiver for 3 Day Qualifying Hospital Stay is retroactive to March 1, 2020 and is in effect for the next 60 days, with the option to renew, following the announcement on March 13, 2020.

Q: Is this waiver only available to residents with COVID-19?

A: No, admitting residents do not have to have COVID-19 or be impacted directly or indirectly. In fact, at this time we are not currently admitting residents with a diagnosis of COVID-19.

Q: Does this waiver include my campus?

A: Yes, this waiver applies nationally. Therefore, all Trilogy campuses will follow this waiver plan.

If you have additional questions on the waiver of the 3 Day Qualifying Hospital Stay, please reach out to Lori Whitlock, Laura Hagan or your support team.