

Revision Dates: 1/10/22; 2/2/2018; 9/1/2010

## GENERAL INFORMATION

NOTE: The covered services, limitations, and exclusions described in this chapter are global in nature and are listed here to offer general guidance to providers. For answers to specific questions regarding covered services, limitations, and exclusions, please refer to the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual available at:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/MedicalPolicyManual/>

Nursing facilities provide care for the chronically ill and for those recuperating from illness who need 24-hour nursing care, but not hospitalization. Many nursing facilities offer several levels of care and various specialized services such as therapies. A limited number of facilities provide services to patients with extensive rehabilitation needs, problems due to wandering behavior, or serious respiratory problems.

AHCCCS covers medically necessary nursing facility services for Fee-For-Service acute care members, who have not been determined eligible for ALTCS services, for a period not to exceed 90 days per contract year (October 1 through September 30) when the following requirements are met:

- A physician has ordered nursing facility services in lieu of hospitalization.
- The medical condition of the member is such that, if nursing facility services are not provided, it would result in hospitalization of the individual.
- Services cannot be effectively provided in the home or in an Indian Health Service (IHS)/638 facility due to lack of appropriate equipment or qualified staff.
- For hospitalized members, the hospital personnel have coordinated patient teaching, discharge planning, and transfer in a timely manner.
- The member needs care or constant monitoring by a registered nurse.
- The member requires assistance with care that cannot be self-administered or provided by a caregiver in the home.

Each facility is responsible for coordinating the delivery of ancillary services, including medical services, pharmaceutical services, therapies, diagnostic services, emergency services, and medically necessary transportation.

The following services are commonly included in the nursing facility per diem rate. The list includes but is not limited to:

- Nursing services, including rehabilitative and restorative services which include:
  - Administration of medication;
  - Tube feedings;

- Personal care services (assistance with bathing, grooming, and laundry);
- Routine testing of vital signs;
- Assistance with eating;
- Maintenance of catheters; and
- Over the counter medications.
- Social services, activity and recreational services, and spiritual services;
- Rehabilitation therapies;
- Nutritional and dietary services including, but not limited to, preparation and administration of special diets and adaptive tools for eating;
- Medical supplies and durable medical equipment;
- Overall management and evaluation of the care plan;
- Observation and assessment of a member's changing condition;
- Room and board services including, but not limited to, support services such as food, personal laundry, and housekeeping;
- Administrative physician visits solely for the purpose of meeting state licensure; and
- Non-prescription, stock pharmaceuticals.

The following items are also included in the per diem rate. The list includes but is not limited to:

- Accucheck monitors
- Alternating pressure mattress and pump
- Bedside commode
- Canes (all types)
- Crutches
- Cushions
- Emesis basins
- Feeding pumps
- Foot cradles
- Geri-chairs (all non-customized)
- Heating pads
- Hospital beds (electric and manual)
- Nebulizers

- Lifts
- Suction machines
- IV poles
- Walkers (all non-customized)
- Water mattresses
- Wheelchairs (all non-customized)

Items included in the per diem rate may not be billed separately. Covered services that are not part of the per diem rate may be billed when ordered by the attending physician and when specified in the member's treatment plan. Services that are not included in the facility per diem payment **must be billed on a separate claim**. Covered services not part of the per diem rate may include therapies, as specified in A. A. C. R9-22-216.

When billing for therapy services the individual therapist must be indicated as the service provider on the claim.

Claims for prescription medications provided during a Nursing Facility admission are submitted to the AHCCCS FFS Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM), OptumRx.

## LIMITATIONS

The following limitations apply to nursing facility services.

- Private rooms in nursing facilities are limited to medical conditions that require isolation per physician orders.
- Respite care is limited to 600 hours per contract year.
- Therapeutic leave days are limited to nine days per contract year.
- Bed hold days for members admitted to a hospital for a short stay are limited to 12 days per contract year.
- Services or items requiring authorization for which authorization has not been obtained are not covered.
- Services rendered in institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis for individuals ages 21 – 64 are not covered.
- Services rendered in institutions for the treatment of mental disease for individuals ages 21 – 64 are limited to 15 days per admission and no more than 60 days per year.
- Services provided in a facility or area of a facility not certified for such services are not



covered.

- Services provided to individuals in a facility who require a level of care (as determined by the PAS and reassessment process) below the level of care they are receiving are not covered.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR SERVICE**

The AHCCCS Administration does not authorize any services rendered by Indian Health Service (IHS)/638 facilities. For nursing facility services rendered by tribal providers to acute fee-for-service American Indian Health Program members, PA from AHCCCS is required unless the member becomes retroactively eligible for AHCCCS.

Providers may phone or fax the AHCCCS PA Unit to request authorization. To obtain PA by telephone, providers must call between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and 12:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Monday – Friday:

(602) 417-4400 (Phoenix area) Providers in area codes 602, 480, and 623 **must** use this number.

1-800-433-0425 (within Arizona) This number is blocked for callers in area codes 602, 480, and 623.

1-800-523-0231 (outside Arizona)

The AHCCCS PA Unit’s fax number is (602) 256-6591.

Initial authorization will not exceed the member’s anticipated fee-for-service enrollment period or a medically necessary length of stay, whichever is shorter. Reauthorization for continued stay is subject to concurrent utilization review by AHCCCS or its designee.

**BILLING FOR SERVICES**

Nursing facilities cannot submit claims that overlap months.

AHCCCS only pays for the date of admission up to, but not including, the date of discharge, unless the patient expires.

Nursing facilities must bill for room and board services on the UB-04 claim form. The table on Page 15-5 summarizes the allowable revenue codes and bill types, effective with dates of service on and after March 01, 2009.

Revenue Codes	Allowable Bill Types
190 Subacute General	86X, 650-668
191 Subacute Care Level I	110 – 179, 211 – 228, 650-668
192 Subacute Care Level II	110 – 179, 211 – 228, 650-668
193 Subacute Care Level III	110 – 179, 211 – 228, 650-668



194	Subacute Care Level IV	110 – 179, 211 – 228, 650-668
199	Other Subacute Care	650-668
183	LOA – Therapeutic (For home visit by member)	211 – 228, 650-668
185	LOA – Bed hold (For short-term hospitalization)	211 – 228, 650-668

When billing revenue codes 183 and 185, providers must split bill and submit claims on separate UB-04 claim forms using the appropriate bill types and patient status codes.

Example 1:

A member residing in a skilled nursing facility is hospitalized on April 11. The member is discharged from the hospital on April 14 and returns to the nursing facility that day. The member remains in the nursing facility through April 30. When billing for the month of April, the nursing facility would submit the following three claims to AHCCCS:

First claim

Dates: 04/01 - 04/10                      Bill Type: 212  
 Revenue code: 192                          Patient status: 30

Second claim

Dates: 04/11 - 04/13                      Bill Type: 213  
 Revenue code: 185                          Patient status: 02

Third claim

Dates: 04/14 - 04/30                      Bill Type: 214  
 Revenue code: 192                          Patient status: 30

When Medicare is the primary payer, AHCCCS will pay the full Medicare coinsurance amount minus any other third party payment. Payment will equal the full Medicare coinsurance amount for the covered days. The Medicare allowed amount includes all ancillary services covered under the Medicare per diem. Providers should not bill separately for those ancillary services.

**NOTE:** See Chapter 7, Medicare/Other Insurance Liability, for detailed information on billing nursing facility claims with Medicare.

**REVISION HISTORY**

Date	Description of Change(s)	Page(s)
1/10/2022	Added clarification for billing ancillary services, claims for prescription medications and billing for therapy services.	3
2/2/2018	Updated respite care hour limits Formatting	3 All