



What is Swing Bed Care?

The Short-Term Care Solution You Need to Know About!

When someone needs additional care after a hospital stay, a “swing bed” may be a good option. A swing bed is a designation meaning the hospital can use a certain number of beds for acute care or for short-term rehabilitation; the term swing simply means the designated bed use can shift between inpatient and rehab care. This type of setting is for patients who need more care after surgery or other medical conditions before going home after a hospital stay. Swing beds offer a solution that is reimbursable by Medicare [for approved patients] to get the help they need without a nursing home stay.

Benefits of Swing Bed Care

- Swing beds offer less disruption for you or your loved one.
- Swing beds are in smaller hospitals; therefore, your loved one is often closer to home, making visits easier.
- Caregivers can give insight regarding what the patient needs help with and can learn how to take care of their loved one once they are back at home.
- Your or your loved one's doctor and regular care team can usually check in more often with swing bed care.
- Specialized equipment is generally more available if needed for rehab.

Who Can Stay in a Swing Bed?

If the patient is eligible for Medicare, they may qualify for a swing bed stay. Medicare Advantage may also approve some swing bed stays. However, there are certain requirements that need to be met for a swing bed stay to be approved.

Examples of Possible Swing Bed Stays:

- A patient with an orthopedic procedure
- A patient with a gastrointestinal procedure
- A patient experiencing cardiac issues
- A patient with pneumonia
- A patient who had a stroke

A swing bed evaluation team will consider several different things to determine if the patient is eligible for a swing bed stay. They will consider things like whether the a one need help walking, help getting out of bed safely, help with preparing a meal, or someone to help with bathing. Swing bed stays often help older patients maintain their independence when they return home, but if another long-term facility or home health is needed, swing bed stays give families time to make those arrangements.



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