

§ 424.15

often purely custodial and thus not covered under Medicare. The purpose of the statements, therefore, is to help ensure that Medicare pays only for services of the type appropriate for Medicare coverage. Accordingly, Medicare Part A pays for inpatient care in a psychiatric hospital only if a physician certifies and recertifies the need for services consistent with the content of paragraphs (b) or (c) of this section, as appropriate.

(b) *Content of certification.* Inpatient psychiatric services were required—

(1) For treatment that could reasonably be expected to improve the patient's condition; or

(2) For diagnostic study.

(c) *Content of recertification.* (1) Inpatient services furnished since the previous certification or recertification were, and continue to be, required—

(i) For treatment that could reasonably be expected to improve the patient's condition; or

(ii) For diagnostic study; and

(2) The hospital records show that the services furnished were—

(i) Intensive treatment services;

(ii) Admission and related services necessary for diagnostic study; or

(iii) Equivalent services.

(3) The patient continues to need, on a daily basis, active treatment furnished directly by or requiring the supervision of inpatient psychiatric facility personnel.

(d) *Timing of certification and recertification.* (1) Certification is required at the time of admission or as soon thereafter as is reasonable and practicable.

(2) The first recertification is required as of the 12th day of hospitalization. Subsequent recertifications are required at intervals established by the UR committee (on a case-by-case basis if it so chooses), but no less frequently than every 30 days.

(e) *Other requirements.* Psychiatric hospitals must also meet the requirements set forth in § 424.13 (b), (c), (f), and (g).

[53 FR 6634, Mar. 2, 1988, as amended at 71 FR 27087, May 9, 2006; 71 FR 37504, June 30, 2006]

§ 424.15 Requirements for inpatient CAH services.

(a) *Content of certification.* Medicare Part A pays for inpatient CAH services

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only if a physician certifies that the individual may reasonably be expected to be discharged or transferred to a hospital within 96 hours after admission to the CAH.

(b) *Timing of certification.* Certification is required no later than 1 day before the date on which the claim for payment for the inpatient CAH services is submitted.

[58 FR 30671, May 26, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 45850, Sept. 1, 1995; 62 FR 46035, 46037, Aug. 29, 1997]

§ 424.16 Timing of certification for individual admitted to a hospital before entitlement to Medicare benefits.

(a) *Basic rule.* If an individual is admitted to a hospital before becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (for instance, before attaining age 65), the day of entitlement (instead of the day of admission) is the starting point for the time limits specified in § 424.13(e) for certification and recertification.

(b) *Example.* (Hospital that is not a psychiatric hospital and is not subject to PPS). For a patient who is admitted on August 15 and becomes entitled on September 1—

(1) The certification is required no later than September 12;

(2) The first recertification is required no later than September 18; and

(3) Subsequent recertifications are required at least every 30 days after September 18.

[53 FR 6635, Mar. 2, 1988; 53 FR 12945, Apr. 20, 1988]

§ 424.20 Requirements for posthospital SNF care.

Medicare Part A pays for posthospital SNF care furnished by an SNF, or a hospital or CAH with a swing-bed approval, only if the certification and recertification for services are consistent with the content of paragraph (a) or (c) of this section, as appropriate.

(a) *Content of certification.*—(1) *General requirements.* Posthospital SNF care is or was required because—

(i) The individual needs or needed on a daily basis skilled nursing care (furnished directly by or requiring the supervision of skilled nursing personnel) or other skilled rehabilitation services