

# Swing Bed Program



Lakes Regional  
Healthcare

An Avera Partner

**The following specific criteria must be met for Medicare to cover the cost of swing bed services:**

- You have Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and have days left in your benefit period to use.
- You require daily skilled nursing or rehabilitation services that can only be provided in a swing bed or skilled nursing facility.
- You were in a hospital at least three inpatient midnights in a row, before entering the swing bed or skilled nursing facility.
- You are admitted to the swing bed or skilled facility within a short period of time (generally less than 30 days) after leaving the hospital.
- The condition for which you are receiving swing bed or skilled nursing care was treated in the hospital or arose while you were receiving care for a condition treated in the hospital.
- A physician certifies that daily skilled nursing or rehabilitation care is necessary.

Along with you and your doctor, many other people may discuss individual health care needs: nursing, utilization review, physical therapy, dietary services, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy and social services. If you have questions or concerns about any part of the swing bed program, please ask or refer to your Medicare Handbook.

## **What is a swing bed program?**

Swing bed is short-term (seven to 10 days) care for patients who have been in the hospital for at least three midnights of inpatient, acute care days, but no longer qualify to remain hospitalized under acute care guidelines. The patient's medical condition has progressed to the point that the provider recommends swing care. The medical condition may be improving or deteriorating but the care needed must be provided under the supervision of licensed nursing personnel or professional therapists.

## **How is this different from other hospital stays?**

First and foremost, all of your needs will be met. The difference is that you will assume a more active role in your care, including dressing every day with assistance if needed, increasing your activity and eating meals sitting upright in a chair. Think of the swing bed program as you no longer need acute hospital care, but need to stay in the hospital for a limited period of time for a specific reason. Reasons for swing bed care include:

- Wound care
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Medical evaluation
- Nutritional evaluation
- Individualized medical condition
- IV antibiotics
- Education of medical condition

## Changes you may notice

- Wearing street clothes is encouraged (loose and comfortable)
- Temperature, blood pressure and pulse measured once a shift or as needed
- Your doctor will visit you at least one time every three days
- Linens will be changed three times per week or as needed
- Complete baths or showers will be given three times per week (partial baths on the other days, with assistance as needed)
- Weight will be taken upon admission and one time per week thereafter



## Swing bed coverage

Before you transfer to a swing bed, you will receive information regarding the swing bed program. You will also be given a letter to sign that will be sent to Medicare notifying them that you are being “transferred” to swing bed care and have been informed of your Medicare rights under the swing care guidelines. This level of care may also be requested by a patient’s private insurance company depending on criteria set by the individual insurance company as well as the individual policy.

On the day of your transfer to swing bed status, you will help complete an assessment about yourself. During the social assessment interview, discharge planning will be discussed. Many times patients are not aware of what is available in their communities to help them better care for themselves when they are discharged. Some resources available in the community to help you with your discharge are support groups, medical equipment and supplies, home health care and assistance with long-term care.

## Lakes Regional Healthcare, an Avera Partner

### Lakes Regional Hospital

2301 Highway 71 S.  
P.O. Box AB  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
**712-336-1230**

### Lakes Regional Ambulance Service

2301 Highway 71 S.  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
**Call 911 for emergencies.**

### Dickinson County Public Health

2301 Highway 71 S.  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
**712-336-2682**



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