

April 2019

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Hot



Medicare
Credit
Balance
Qtrly
Reminder



Staffing
For RN
Change

TOPICS

Proposed Legislation to count Observation in a hospital to count toward 3-day stay:

Proposed Legislation to remedy the Medicare “observation days in a hospital” has been introduced in Congress. The Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act would require any time spent in a hospital to be counted toward the three-day stay requirement for Medicare Beneficiaries. In order for a Medicare patient to use their Medicare A benefits, they have to have a 3 day hospital stay. Hospitals are notorious for changing the “inpatient stay” to an “observation stay”. Most providers have incurred bad debt write off’s due to a hospital changing a patient’s stay from “inpatient” to “observation”. We will continue to monitor the progress of this bill.

Events, News & Notes

Medicare Credit Balance Quarterly Reminder :

The Quarterly Medicare Credit Balance Report , (Form [CMS-838](#)) should be postmarked by April 30, 2019, for the quarter ending March 31, 2019. A Medicare credit balance is an amount determined to be refundable to the Medicare program for an improper or excess payment made to a provider because of patient billing or claims processing errors.

April 2019 updates to Nursing Home Compare:

Starting April 24, 2019 CMS will give providers a one-star staffing rating for providers that have four or more days in a quarter with no registered nurse in the building. The previous standard for RN coverage was seven days in a quarter. Please be aware of this change and the impact it can post on your overall rating. To see additional updates read article [here](#).

Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Payment and Policy Changes for Skilled Nursing Facilities:

CMS addresses updated payment rates and the quality programs for SNF’s in the proposed rule issued on April 19, 2019. A 2.5% increase, SNF Value-Based Purchasing Program, and SNF Quality Reporting Programs are discussed in the proposed rule. Additionally, effective October 1, 2019, CMS will begin using a new case-mix model, PDPM, focusing on the patient’s condition and care needs. More information is provided in the April 19, 2019 article [here](#).

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