

# Eligible Medicare Patients Can Receive Skilled Nursing Care at Eligible Skilled Nursing Facilities Without a Prior Hospital Stay

\_\_\_\_\_ participating in \_\_\_\_\_, an Accountable Care Organization (ACO). An ACO is a group of doctors, hospitals, and/or other health care providers that work together to improve the quality and experience of care you receive.

## ? What's a skilled nursing facility?

▶ A **skilled nursing facility** provides skilled nursing care and/or rehabilitation services on a daily basis. Skilled nursing care can only be given or supervised by certain providers. Care includes services like:

- Medical social services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Skilled nursing care
- Speech-language pathology



Medicare patients have to stay in a hospital 3 days in a row before Medicare will pay for their stay at a skilled nursing facility.



When an ACO partners with a skilled nursing facility, you may be able to get skilled nursing care without staying at a hospital first.

▶ Your doctor may decide that you need daily skilled care to help improve or maintain your current condition.

## ? What is the skilled nursing facility 3-day rule waiver?

▶ Medicare patients have to stay in a hospital for 3 days in a row before Medicare will pay for their stay at a skilled nursing facility. This is called the **skilled nursing facility 3-day rule**. Some ACOs are approved for a **skilled nursing facility 3-day rule waiver** and have partnered with skilled nursing facilities. This means you may be able to get skilled nursing and/or rehabilitative care in a skilled nursing facility without staying at a hospital first.

## ? What does the skilled nursing facility 3-day rule waiver mean for me?

- ▶ Our ACO is approved to send you for skilled nursing facility or rehabilitation care even if you haven't stayed in a hospital for 3 days first, which is usually a requirement in Medicare. This allows your doctor to be more flexible with the care they recommend for you.
- ▶ For you to qualify for this benefit, we'd have to decide that you need skilled nursing facility care and meet certain other eligibility requirements. The skilled nursing facility 3-day rule waiver applies only to eligible patients who get care from one of our skilled nursing facility partners. All of our partners have at least a 3-star rating according to the [Care Compare website](#).

Care Compare on Medicare.gov keeps track of:

- The number of beds at the facility, and how many are being used (occupied)
- Nursing staff hours per resident per day
- Facility inspection summary results
- Deficiency and complaint information
- Quality measures for each nursing home

## ? Are my Medicare benefits changing?

▶ **No.** Your Medicare benefits are not changing. You still have the right to visit any doctor, hospital, or other provider that accepts Medicare at any time, just like you do now.

