
42 C.F.R. § 412.4

Discharges and transfers.

(a) *Discharges.* Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, a hospital inpatient is considered discharged from a hospital paid under the prospective payment system when—

- (1) The patient is formally released from the hospital; or
- (2) The patient dies in the hospital.

(b) *Acute care transfers.* A discharge of a hospital inpatient is considered to be a transfer for purposes of payment under this part if the patient is readmitted the same day (unless the readmission is unrelated to the initial discharge) to another hospital that is—

- (1) Paid under the prospective payment system described in subparts A through M of this part;
- (2) Excluded from being paid under the prospective payment system described in subparts A through M of this part because of participation in an approved statewide cost control program as described in subpart C of part 403 of this chapter;
- (3) An acute care hospital that would otherwise be eligible to be paid under the IPPS, but does not have an agreement to participate in the Medicare program; or
- (4) A critical access hospital.

(c) *Postacute care transfers.* A discharge of a hospital inpatient is considered to be a transfer for purposes of this part when the patient's discharge is assigned, as described in § 412.60(c), to one of the qualifying diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) listed in paragraph (d) of this section and the discharge is made under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) To a hospital or distinct part hospital unit excluded from the prospective payment system described in subparts A through M of this part under subpart B of this part.
- (2) To a skilled nursing facility.
- (3) To home under a written plan of care for the provision of home health services from a home health agency and those services begin within 3 days after the date of discharge.
- (4) For discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2018, to hospice care provided by a hospice program.

(d) *Qualifying DRGs.* (1) For a fiscal year prior to FY 2006, for purposes of paragraph (c) of this section, and subject to the provisions of paragraph (d)(2) of this section, the qualifying DRGs must meet the following criteria for both of the 2 most recent years for which data are available:

This document is only available to subscribers. Please log in or purchase access.

Purchase Login