
The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services recognizes reserved bed days as an allowable cost when an MA resident is absent from a nursing facility for a continuous 24-hour period for the purpose of hospitalization or for therapeutic leave.

A. Hospitalization

1. A resident receiving nursing facility services is eligible for a maximum of 15 consecutive reserved bed days per hospitalization. The Department will pay a nursing facility at a rate of one-third of the facility's current per diem rate on file with the Department for a hospital reserved bed day if the nursing facility meets the overall occupancy requirements as set forth below.
 - a. During the rate year 2009-2010, the nursing facility's overall occupancy rate for the rate quarter in which the hospital reserved bed day occurs shall equal or exceed 75%.
 - b. Beginning with rate year 2010-2011 and thereafter, the nursing facility's overall occupancy rate for the rate quarter in which the hospital reserved bed day occurs shall equal or exceed 85%.
 - c. The Department will calculate a nursing facility's overall occupancy rate for a rate quarter as follows.
 - (i) The Department will identify the picture date for the rate quarter (July 1 rate quarter – February 1 picture date; October 1 rate quarter – May 1 picture date; January 1 rate quarter – August 1 picture date; and April 1 rate quarter – November 1 picture date) and the two picture dates immediately preceding this picture date.
 - (ii) The Department will calculate the nursing facility's occupancy rate for each of the picture dates identified in (i) above, by dividing the total number of assessments listed in the facility's CMI report for that picture date by the number of the facility's certified beds on file with the Department on the picture date and multiplying the result by 100%. The Department will assign the highest of the three picture date occupancy rates as the nursing facility's overall occupancy rate for the rate quarter.
 - (iii) The Department will only use information contained on a valid CMI report to calculate a nursing facility's overall occupancy rate. If a nursing facility did not submit a valid CMI report for a picture date identified in (i) above, the Department will calculate the nursing facility's overall occupancy rate based upon the valid CMI reports that are available for the identified picture dates. If no valid CMI reports are available for the picture dates identified in (i) above, the nursing facility is not eligible to receive payment for hospital reserve bed days in the rate quarter.

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- d. A new nursing facility is exempt from the applicable occupancy requirements set forth in 1.a. and 1.b. above, until a CMI Report for each of the three picture dates used to calculate overall occupancy as set forth in 1.c.(i) above is available for the rate quarter.
2. If the resident's hospital stay exceeds the Department's 15 reserved bed day payment limitation, the nursing facility shall readmit the resident to the nursing facility upon the first availability of a bed in the nursing facility if, at the time of readmission, the resident requires the services provided by the nursing facility.
3. If a bed is reserved for a hospitalized resident, it must be available to the resident upon the resident's return to the nursing facility. The bed need not remain empty pending the resident's return; however, it must be recorded as a resident day on the nursing facility's daily census and on the invoice if it is temporarily occupied by another resident. A bed reserved for a hospitalized resident is not counted as a resident if the bed remains empty.

B. Therapeutic Leave

A resident receiving nursing facility services is eligible for a maximum of 30 days per calendar year of therapeutic leave outside the nursing facility providing the leave is included in the individual's plan of care and is ordered by the attending physician.

Therapeutic leave day extension. In addition to per diem payment for 30 therapeutic leave days per calendar year, a nursing facility will be eligible to receive payment for additional therapeutic leave days subject to the following:

- (i) The nursing facility contacts the Department to request a therapeutic leave day extension.
- (ii) The Department approves the therapeutic leave day extension.
- (iii) The day has not been reimbursed from other sources, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Medicare Program or Medicare Advantage Plans.
- (iv) Payment for additional therapeutic leave days will be made at the facility's per diem rate on file with the Department for a therapeutic leave day.

Therapeutic Leave Day Extensions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and approved at the discretion of the State.

The Department will pay a nursing facility its current per diem rate on file with the Department for therapeutic leave days.

Each bed reserved for therapeutic leave must remain unoccupied pending the resident's return to the facility. The bed must be recorded as a resident day on the facility's daily census and on the invoice.