
Rural Hospital Swing Bed Program

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«This manual section has been retained to provide reference to LTC-related billing instructions for dates of service prior to February 1, 2024. This manual section is not live and does not reflect current billing policy and should not be referenced when billing for dates of service on or after February 1, 2024. For current billing instructions as of February 1, 2024, refer to the appropriate manual section in the [Long Term Care Provider Manual](#).»

The rural hospital swing bed program offers Long Term Care (LTC) services in areas where there is a shortage of Nursing Facility Level B (NF-B) beds.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the rural hospital swing bed program, hospitals must:

- Meet the standards for hospitals specified in *California Code of Regulations (CCR)*, Title 22, Section 51207.
- Be certified as a special hospital provider of long term care services under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act.
- Be approved by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as a primary health services hospital in accordance with Division 2, Article 10, of the *Health and Safety Code* commencing with Section 1339.

Bed Designation

Under the program, rural hospitals may designate some beds for use interchangeably as acute beds or nursing facility beds.

Administrative Days

Administrative days may be authorized for swing bed facility patients who meet all the following appropriate criteria:

- Patient needs NF-B care.
- Patient is occupying a bed designated as an acute care bed.
- Hospital has established that no NF-B bed is available.
- Occupancy rate for all designated swing beds is 100 percent.

Administrative days will be billed using the facility's acute care provider number with the appropriate accommodation code 098 or Los Angeles County Waiver administrative day code 52.

Enrollment

Providers wishing to participate in the swing bed program should contact their licensing and certification district office. Certified providers will be issued LTC provider numbers and manuals containing instructions for billing swing bed services.

Reimbursement

NF-B services provided to patients in swing beds will be reimbursed pursuant to CCR, Title 22, Section 51511 (a) (3). Participating hospitals should follow the billing instructions in the *Payment Request for Long Term Care (25-1) Completion* section of this manual and use accommodation code 04 for inpatient services and 05 for leave days. Refer to the *Accommodation Codes for Long Term Care and Rates: Facility Per Diem* sections in this manual.

Providers participating in the swing bed program should be aware that the reimbursement received for NF-B services may impact acute care reimbursement rates.

Providers billing for LTC services in swing beds may receive reimbursement for:

- NF-B services at the appropriate swing bed rate
- Patients on approved leave of absence
- Bed hold days

Outpatient services for NF-B patients, on the other hand, will be reimbursed at the hospital's fee-for-service outpatient rates and will be billed using the facility's Outpatient provider number.

Legend

Symbols used in the document above are explained in the following table.

Symbol	Description
«	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
»	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.