# TAR Criteria for DP/NF Authorization (Hudman v. Kizer)

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The purpose of this section is to inform providers of the circumstances in which Distinct-Part Nursing Facility (DP/NF) care will be authorized based on the court order of Hudman v. Kizer.

This court order applies to all eligible Medi-Cal recipients in need of long-term skilled nursing care. Long term care does not include patients needing post-surgical rehabilitation or therapy services which are <u>time limited</u>.

### TAR Criteria for DP/NF

#### **Authorization**

A *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) from a DP/NF will be authorized by the Medi-Cal consultant at the distinct-part reimbursement rate if the following criteria are met:

- 1) Medical necessity for long term nursing care is documented, and
- 2) All administrative requirements have been met, and
  - a. There is <u>no</u> Free-Standing Nursing Facility (FS/NF) within 15 miles of the patient's established residence prior to admission and the DP/NF is within a shorter travel time than the closest FS/NF able and willing to accept the patient, or
  - b. There is an FS/NF within 15 miles of the patient's established residence prior to admission, but after reasonable placement efforts, no FS/NF within that distance is able and willing to accept the patient, and the DP/NF submitting the TAR is within a shorter travel time than the closest FS/NF able and willing to accept the patient, or
  - c. There is <u>no</u> FS/NF within 30 minutes actual travel time from the established residence address of the immediate family member who certifies that he/she is the family member who will be most frequently visiting and helping with the personal needs of the patient. Also, the DP/NF must be within a shorter travel time than the closest FS/NF able and willing to accept the patient. The *Family Certification* form at the end of this section must be completed and submitted with the TAR. A copy must also be retained in the patient's record, or
  - d. There is an FS/NF within 30 minutes actual travel time from the established residence address of the immediate family member who certifies that he/she will be most frequently visiting and helping with the personal needs of the patient.
    - However, there is <u>no</u> FS/NF able and willing to accept the patient after the DP/NF has completed reasonable placement efforts in contacting the appropriate FS/NFs. The DP/NF must be within a shorter travel time than the closest FS/NF able and willing to accept the patient. The *Family Certification* form at the end of this section must be completed and submitted with the TAR. A copy must also be retained in the patient's record, or

- e. The immediate family member who certifies that he/she will be most frequently visiting and helping with the personal needs of the patient <u>cannot</u>, because of established health reasons, travel to an FS/NF that is able and willing to accept the patient and is within thirty (30) minutes actual travel time. However, he/she is able to travel to the DP/NF. The *Family Certification* form at the end of this section must be completed and submitted with the TAR. A copy must also be retained in the patient's record, or
- f. The patient has a spouse residing in the same DP/NF, or
- g. The hospital's discharge planner, with input from the patient's physician, determines that the patient requires short-term nursing facility care for post-surgical rehabilitation or therapy services which are curative rather than palliative in nature, or
- h. The patient was residing in a DP/NF on June 1, 1992 and was admitted prior to that date. For patients who have met this requirement and are later hospitalized, a TAR at the DP/NF rate will be reinstated if the patient returns to the same DP/NF during the statutory bed-hold period of seven (7) days. Otherwise, to reside in a DP/NF, the patient must meet the conditions set forth in this agreement unless the patient's attending physician documents that a transfer to a FS/NF would cause physical or psychological harm to the patient. This documentation (M.D. progress notes, letter, etc.) must be presented with the TAR, or
- i. The patient is currently, at the time approval is sought, residing in a DP/NF and has been continuously residing in that DP/NF for at least 120 consecutive days, and payment has been made or approved during the last 120 consecutive days by Medicare, other health insurance, or Medi-Cal at a DP/NF rate. For patients who have met this requirement and are later hospitalized, a TAR at the DP/NF rate will be reinstated if the patient returns to the same DP/NF during the statutory bed-hold period of seven (7) days. Otherwise, to reside in a DP/NF, that patient must meet the conditions previously set forth unless the patient's attending physician documents that a transfer to a FS/NF would cause physical or psychological harm to the patient. This documentation (M.D. progress notes, letter, etc.) must be presented with the TAR.

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## **Key Definitions**

#### **Reasonable Placement Efforts**

For the purposes of this agreement "reasonable placement efforts" means that during the 25-day time period beginning with the date that approval for the Medi-Cal DP/NF rate is first sought, the hospital or DP/NF shall do the following:

- 1. Contact on a daily basis (not including Saturdays, Sundays or holidays) Medi-Cal certified FS/NFs within the applicable travel time to determine whether each such FS/NF is able and willing to take the patient. In meeting this requirement, facilities shall contact only those FS/NFs that they, in good faith, believe may be able and willing to accept the patient, taking into account previous contacts. FS/NFs within the applicable travel time are those within the appropriate travel time set forth under "TAR Criteria for DP/NF" on a previous page, and
- 2. Document that the facility spoke to a person responsible for admission decisions during each required contact, document the date and time of each contact with an FS/NF, document the name and title of each person to whom spoken, document the reason given for the FS/NF not being able or willing to accept the patient on the day contacted, and document the date, if any, when the FS/NF would be willing and able to accept the patient. (Refer to the Call List For NF Placement form at the end of this section), and
- 3. «Submit the documentation specified in #2 on a previous page at the conclusion of the 25-day placement effort period with the TAR>>.
  - a. Administrative days will be approved at hospitals seeking to place a patient into the hospital's own DP/NF for a patient determined to need long term skilled nursing facility care, subject to the placement efforts outlined in #1 and #2 on a previous page being met.
    - If a contacted FS/NF was able and willing to accept the patient during the 25-day period, the hospital's *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) will be subsequently authorized for approval of administrative days up until the date the FS/NF accepts the patient. The administrative day TAR should indicate the name and type of accepting facility and the day of discharge from the acute hospital. If the basis on which DP/NF approval is sought is due to the lack of any FS/NF able and willing to take the patient after reasonable placement efforts, such approval will not be given for any days of care prior to the completion of the reasonable placement effort period. Acute administrative days may be approved prior to completion of the reasonable placement period. If it is established that no FS/NF within the applicable travel time will now or ever be able or willing to accept the patient, further placement efforts will not be required.

- b. If a patient was admitted to a DP/NF from a non-hospital setting, such as home, residential care, FS/NF or from a hospital other than the DP's own hospital, or was a DP/NF resident who converted from another payment source (i.e., Medicare), a TAR will be approved at the DP/NF rate for a patient determined to need long term skilled nursing facility placement subject to the placement efforts outlined in #1 and #2 on a previous page being met. Documentation of placement efforts should be submitted with a TAR to the TAR Processing Center after the 25-day placement period is completed. There is no timeliness requirement.
  - If a contacted FS/NF is able and willing to accept the patient during the 25-day reasonable placement effort period, the DP/NF's TAR will be subsequently authorized for approval at the DP/NF rate up until the date the FS/NF accepts the patient. The DP/NF TAR should indicate the name and type of accepting facility and the day of discharge from the DP/NF. If the basis on which DP/NF authorization is sought is due to the lack of any FS/NF able and willing to take the patient after reasonable placement efforts, such approval will not be given until after the completion of the reasonable placement efforts period. Days of care during the placement period will be authorized if all of the criteria set forth under "TAR Criteria For DP/NF" on a previous page have been met.
- c. If a patient was admitted from the acute hospital to the hospital-based DP/NF and the required placement process has been completed and approved on the hospital's administrative day TAR, the DP/NF is not required to initiate new placement efforts. The DP/NF must indicate on the 20-1 TAR that <u>Hudman</u> v. <u>Kizer</u> criteria have been met by listing the TAR Control Number of the administrative day TAR. (For an example of an administrative day TAR for a hospital admitting a patient to its own DP/NF, refer to *Figure 1* on a following page.)

**Note:** Reasonable placement efforts are also applicable under the following circumstances:

- If Medicare, Other Health Coverage, or Medi-Cal has not paid for or approved a full 120 consecutive day stay, the DP/NF must make reasonable placement efforts as outlined in #1 and #2 on a previous page for the days not covered. For example, if only 100 days are covered, the DP/NF must make placement calls for the remaining 20 days. Documentation of placement efforts must be submitted with the TAR.
- If the patient is determined retroactively eligible for Medi-Cal, the DP/NF must make a
  reasonable placement effort for a 25-day period beginning the day notification of
  Medi-Cal eligibility is received. Documentation of placement efforts and date of
  notification of Medi-Cal eligibility must be submitted with the TAR.

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#### **Actual Travel Time**

"Actual travel time" is the amount of time it would take a person to travel between two specific points by means of whatever transportation would be available to him/her, taking into account actual road and weather conditions.

### **Discharge Planning**

If an acute hospital discharge planner plans to admit a patient to its own DP/NF, the admission must meet the criteria set forth under "TAR Criteria for DP/NF" before authorization will be approved.

For an example of a DP/NF TAR and a FS/NF TAR, refer to *Figures 2* and 3 on the following pages.

#### **PASRR**

«Hudman v. Kizer has no impact on PASRR requirements and procedures. A General Acute
Care Hospital should continue to perform PASRR for DP/NF admissions, including
admissions to its own DP/NF.

»

#### DP/NF Requests FS/NF Provider Number

If a DP/NF desires of its own volition to take, at the FS/NF rate, a patient needing skilled nursing care, the Department will approve a TAR submitted for authorization at that rate. In addition to their regular provider number, DP/NFs must obtain an FS/NF provider number for use on the TAR. A DP/NF objecting to the FS/NF rate in any other circumstance shall not be deemed to have waived its rights to administrative appeal and further review.

Questions should be directed to the TAR Processing Center,1-800-541-5555. See the *TAR Field Office Addresses* section for the address.

### **Forms**

### Medi-Cal Information Sheet for Hospital-Based Nursing Facility Patients

The Medi-Cal Information Sheet For Hospital-Based Nursing Facility Patients provides general information and placement criteria for admission in a distinct-part nursing facility. This material, in English and Spanish, should be given to the Medi-Cal recipient upon admission to the hospital's distinct-part nursing facility. The Medi-Cal Information Sheet For Hospital-Based Nursing Facility Patients is included at the end of this section and may be duplicated.

#### Other Forms

The Family Certification form, Medical Certification form and Call List For NF Placement form are located at the end of this section. Copies of these forms may be made and submitted as directed.

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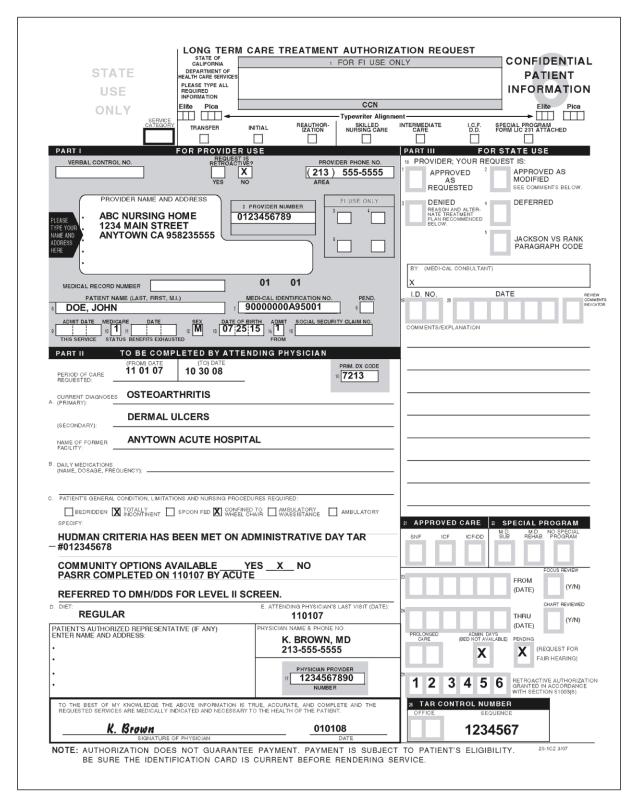


Figure 1: Administrative Day TAR for Hospital Admitting Patient to Its Own DP/NF

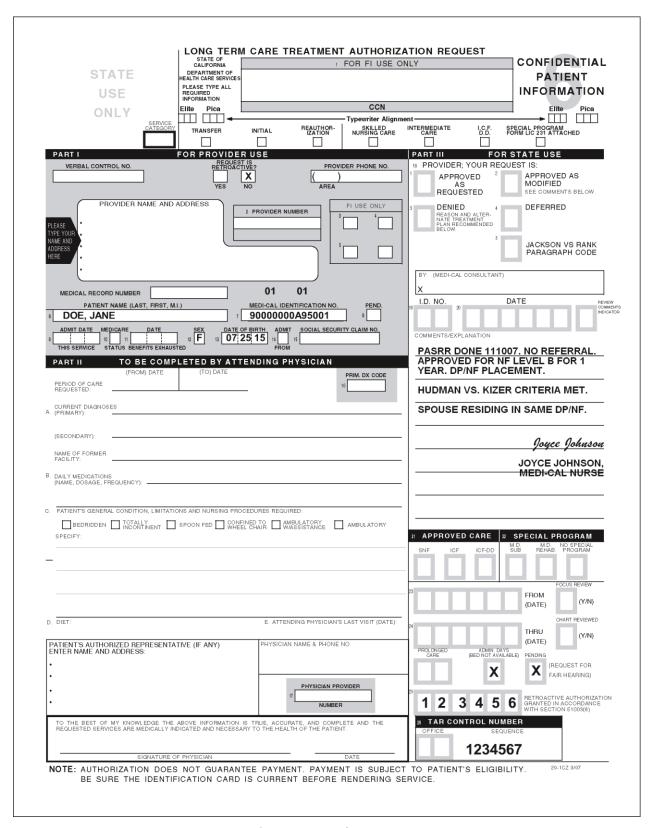


Figure 2: DP/NF TAR

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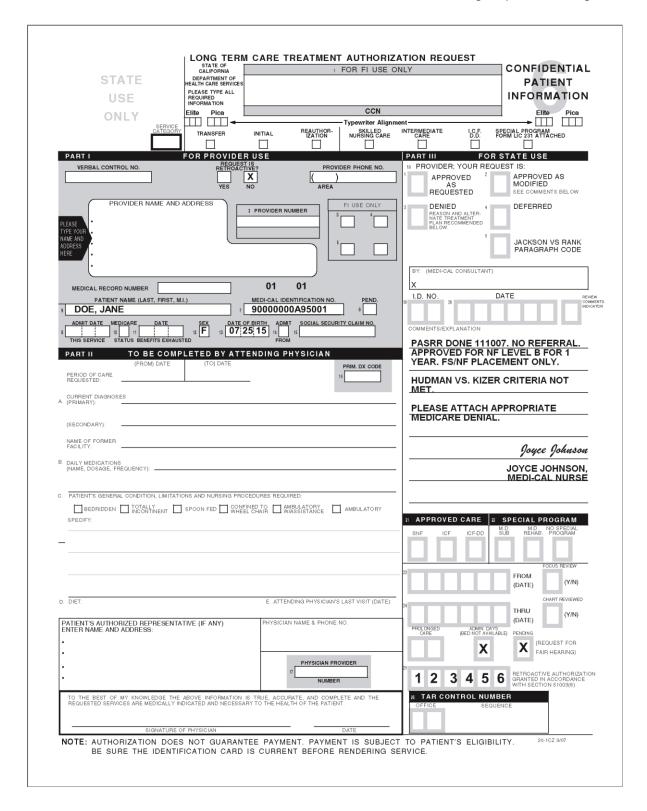


Figure 3: FS/NF TAR

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# «Legend»

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

Symbol	Description
<b>((</b>	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change begins.
<b>&gt;&gt;</b>	This is a change mark symbol. It is used to indicate where on the page the most recent change ends.