

Options for Direct Transfer from Emergency Department

Patients with a Medicare benefit can be transferred directly from the Emergency Department to the following levels of care

Alternative Level of Care	Pre-Authorization Required?	Doctor's Order Required?	Notes
Observation Floor	No	Yes	High Cost to Hospital; should be last resort
Physician Office/Urgent Care	No	No	
Long Term Acute Care	Yes*	NA	* Not an option at present; Reimbursement to LTACH still limited so not overly attractive to LTACH at present
Acute Rehab	No	Yes	Easiest
Skilled Nursing/Sub-Acute	No**	Yes	** Patients discharged from a hospital or SNF within last 30 calendar days
Assisted Living/Board & Care	No	No	Cash pay; not a covered benefit; discharge delay
Home Health	No	Yes	
Home Care	No	No	Patient pays; not a Medicare covered benefit but no caps or limits on service
Hospice or Palliative	No	Yes	
Acute Psychiatric Hospital	Yes	Yes	Can vary based state to state

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