



Hospice Admit while the Patient Remains in a Hospital

Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) Medicare recognizes providers have asked the following question regarding inpatient discharge and hospice admit on the same day, while the patient remains inpatient hospital.

Question: Patient was inpatient and has been moved to a hospice bed in the inpatient hospital (same bed or same area). Patient was seen by attending physician (not employed by the hospice) for the inpatient POS 21 discharge and then again for the inpatient hospice admission (POS 21). How would this physician bill for both Evaluation and Management services on the same day - inpatient discharge & hospice admit on the same day - in that order?

Answer: Medicare does not have a specific policy rule for discharge from an inpatient hospital to a hospice. In the majority of E/M claims two (2) E/M services by the same physician to the same patient for the same diagnosis on the same calendar date CANNOT be paid. The exception is the hospital discharge day management to a nursing facility admission/readmission. The inpatient hospital care codes and nursing facility codes are both "per diem" codes which means in the majority of cases services are bundled into one E/M service and the physician can be paid for only one E/M service.

The policy rules in '91/'92 said Medicare Part B would pay both the hospital discharge day management code AND the nursing facility initial visit when they occur on the same day by the same physician for the same patient. This policy rule was not carried over into any other circumstance (i.e., domiciliary care or home services or office visit). Given that, CMS and WPS Medicare believe we would not pay an attending physician (who is not paid by hospice) for both the hospital discharge day management service and hospice visit code on the same date of service for the same patient.