

Levels of Care for Nursing Home Residents

DEFINITIONS OF LEVELS OF CARE

Title XIX provides reimbursement for both skilled and intermediate nursing care in two types of nursing homes. The first type includes skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities serving primarily the non-developmentally disabled. The second type includes skilled or intermediate care facilities certified to serve the developmentally disabled (ICF-MR certified facilities). The different levels of care for which separate rate determination is made are:

DEFINITIONS OF NURSING CARE LEVELS

Intense Skilled Nursing -- ISN Intense skilled nursing (ISN) is defined as care for residents whose health requires specific, complex interventions. Services and procedures may be identified as complex because of the resident's condition, the type of procedure, or the number of procedures utilized. ISN requires specialized nursing assessment skills, based on knowledge and training, with appropriate health monitoring by professional nurses. Direct observation, monitoring or performance of complex nursing procedures by professional nurses is required on a continuing basis, with repeated application of the procedures or services every 24 hours and frequent monitoring and documentation of the resident's condition and response to therapeutic measures.

Effective January 1, 1990: Intense skilled nursing services are services requiring specialized nursing assessment skills, based on knowledge and training with appropriate health monitoring by professional nurses for residents whose health care requires specific interventions and are complex. Complex procedures/services may be identified as complex because of the status of the resident's condition, type of procedure or multiplicity of procedures utilized. Inclusion is limited to persons where level of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) functioning (toileting, eating, transferring, mobility) requires a staff person present during entire activity. If the staff person were not present, the resident would be incapable of completing the activity. Direct observation, monitoring or performance of complex nursing procedures by professional nurses are required to be performed on a continuing basis. Continuing care implies repeated application of the procedures or services every 24 hours, frequent monitoring and documentation of resident's condition and response to therapeutic measures.

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There must be a complex condition existing plus the person must be dependent on staff for ADLs. The ADL dependency requires a staff person be present during the entire activity to qualify. The ADL dependency alone does not make the person ISN or the complex condition alone does not qualify the person to be identified as ISN.

For further information, including the five categories of nursing services considered under this care definition, reference the "Intense Skilled Nursing Services Guidelines," published by the Department's Bureau of Quality Compliance.

Skilled Nursing Care -- SNF Skilled nursing care (SNF) is defined as continuous nursing care which requires substantial nursing knowledge and skill based on the assessment, observation and supervision of the physical, emotional, social and restorative needs of the patient by, or supervised by, a registered nurse who is under general medical direction.

Intermediate Care -- ICF 1 Intermediate nursing care (ICF 1) is defined as professional, general nursing care including physical, emotional, social and restorative services which are required to maintain the stability of patients with long-term illnesses or disabilities. A registered nurse shall be responsible for nursing administration and direction.

Limited Care -- ICF 2 Limited nursing care (ICF 2) is defined as simple nursing care procedures required by patients with long-term illnesses or disabilities in order to maintain stability. Limited nursing care can be provided safely only by or under the supervision of a person who is no less skilled than a licensed practical nurse and who serves under the direction of a registered nurse. The physical, emotional, social and restorative care of the patient shall be directed by the appropriate medical and/or paramedical personnel, under the supervision of a physician.

Personal Care -- ICF 3 Personal care (ICF 3) is defined as personal assistance, supervision and protection for individuals who do not need nursing care, but do need periodic medical services, the consultation of a registered nurse, or periodic observation and consultation for physical, emotional, social or restorative needs.

Residential Care -- ICF 4 Residential care (ICF 4) is defined as care for individuals who, in the opinion of a licensed physician, have social service and activity therapy needs because of disability. Patients needing such care must be supervised by a licensed nurse seven days a week on the day shift, and there must be registered nurse consultation four hours per week.

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DEFINITIONS OF LEVELS OF CARE FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED RESIDENTS

MR 1 Level Severely and profoundly retarded children and adolescents under the age of 18 years, who require active treatment and considerable adult guidance and supervision; also children or adults who have fragile health or are persistently aggressive, assaultive or security risks or who manifest hyperactive behaviors.

MR 2 Level Profoundly, severely, and moderately retarded adults who require skill training and active treatment for physical and behavioral problems and those who may exhibit occasional behavioral outbursts.

MR 3 Level Mildly or moderately retarded adults with minimum nursing care needs, who require active treatment for attainment of socialization skills and maintenance of level training for activities of daily living (ADL) as provided by the facility or by outside resources where the resident leaves the facility daily for a major portion of each day.

MR 4 Level Retarded adults who leave the facility daily for a major portion of the day to work in vocational training programs, sheltered workshops or day services centers and who have ADL skills and primarily require social support services and minimum nursing care.

DD 1A Level All developmentally disabled children and adolescents under the age of 18 and developmentally disabled adults of any age who require active treatment and whose health status is fragile, unstable or relatively unstable.

DD 1B Level All developmentally disabled children and adolescents under the age of 18 and adults of any age who require active treatment, considerable guidance and supervision, and who persistently or frequently exhibit behaviors directed toward self or others which may be dangerous to health or welfare.

DD 2 Level Moderately retarded adults requiring active treatment with an emphasis on skills training.

DD 3 Level Mildly retarded adults requiring active treatment with an emphasis on refinement of social skills and attainment of domestic and vocational skills.

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