

June 2006

Colorado Swing Bed Guidelines

“Swing Beds” are defined in Federal Regulation: Title 42: Public Health Part 482 Conditions of Participation for Hospitals 482.66 as “long-term care services” that are reimbursed at a different rate than regular hospital beds.

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Interpretive Guidelines for Federal Regulation 482.66 are as follows:

The swing bed concept allows a hospital to use their beds interchangeably for either acute-care or post-acute care. A “swing bed” is a change in reimbursement status. The patients “swing” from receiving acute-care services and reimbursement to receiving skilled nursing (SNF) services and reimbursement.

Federal Regulations Part 483 Subpart C 483.106 requires preadmission screening of all individuals with mental illness or mental retardation who apply as new admissions to Medicaid nursing facilities on or after January 1989.

Therefore, the discharge from a regular hospital bed and admission into a swing bed (skilled nursing services level of care bed) constitutes an admission into a nursing facility bed and requires preadmission screening per Federal Regulations Part 483 Subpart C 483.106.

There are fourteen hospitals in Colorado that are certified by Medicaid to provide “swing bed” services. Individuals who are moved into swing beds in Medicaid certified hospitals are required to complete the PASRR process.

Attached is a list of Colorado Medicaid Certified Swing Bed Hospitals.