

# MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

December 8, 1998

General Medicare Bulletin G-357

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Medicare Provider Education

SUBJECTS: **Discharges to Swing Bed Units and other Post-Acute Care Providers**

**ATTENTION MEDICARE BUSINESS OFFICE:** Please distribute to all appropriate health care facility personnel.

The National Uniform Billing Committee has revised the UB-92, Form Locator 22, Patient Status, to modify the structure of four existing code definitions and added three new codes to enable providers to more accurately code a patients' status. These changes are primarily necessary because of the exclusion of transfers to swing bed units from section 4407 of Public Law 105-33 which created new rules for discharges from PPS hospitals to post-acute care providers that are effective October 1, 1998. The words "for inpatient care" were added to code 02. Code 03 was changed to read "Discharged/transferred to SNF (For hospitals with an approved swing bed arrangement, use Code 61 - Swing Bed)". Reference to outpatient care was removed from code 05. The words "or expected to return for outpatient services" was removed from code 30. A new code 61 was added for discharges/transfers within this institution to a hospital based Medicare approved swing bed. A new code 71 was added for discharges/transfers/referrals to another institution for outpatient services. A new code 72 was added for discharges/transfers/referrals to this institution for outpatient services.

All hospitals and State hospital associations should make the following changes in their billing procedures for Medicare:

- o Hospitals discharging/transferring a patient to a swing bed SNF unit should use code 04, discharged/transferred to an ICF in lieu of the current code 03, Discharged/transferred to a SNF and in lieu of the new code 61, discharged/transferred to a swing bed unit.
- o Hospitals referring a patient for outpatient services to another institution should use code 01, discharged to home or self care in lieu of the current code 05, discharged/transferred to another type of institution or referred for outpatient services to another institution and in lieu of the new code 71, discharges/transfers/referrals to another institution for outpatient services and in lieu of the new code 72, discharges/transfers/referrals to this institution for outpatient services.
- o Hospitals discharging/transferring a patient to a SNF that is not a swing bed unit should continue to use code 03, discharged/transferred to SNF.
- o Hospitals discharging/transferring a patient to another type of institution (including distinct

parts) should continue to use code 05, discharged/transferred to another type of institution (including distinct parts).

Use of these codes as instructed above will result in the correct calculation of payments under section 4407 of Public Law 105-33 for all discharges.

Questions regarding this Bulletin may be addressed to the Medicare Part A Customer Service Department at (904) 355-8899.