

Explanation of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-Day Waiver Benefit Enhancement

Your primary doctor is participating with PeaceHealth in a Medicare program called ACO REACH (Accountable Care Organization Realizing Equity, Access, and Community Health), formerly known as Direct Contracting.

Your Medicare benefits have not changed. You still have the freedom to go to any doctor, hospital or other healthcare provider of your choice that accepts Medicare.

Because your doctor is part of this program, some enhanced benefits are available to you at no extra cost.

One of these enhanced benefits is expanded access to care at a skilled nursing facility (SNF). Medicare refers to this as the “SNF 3-day Waiver Benefit Enhancement.” Normally, Medicare only allows you to go to a skilled nursing facility if you have had a qualifying hospital stay. A qualifying hospital stay means that you were admitted to the hospital for 3 or more days sometime in the past 30 days.

Under the ACO REACH program, you may be able to go to a SNF directly from the Emergency Department. You may also be able to go to a SNF from the hospital after only 1-2 days. You still have to meet Medicare’s other standard requirements for a SNF stay.

To access this benefit, Medicare does require that you go to a SNF that is a “preferred partner” in our ACO REACH program. We will provide you with a list of our preferred partner SNFs for you and your family to choose from.

You do not have to choose to go to a SNF, nor do you have to choose one of our preferred partner SNFs. If you do not want to go to one of the eligible SNFs, we will work with you to set up an alternative discharge plan.

Disclosure: Please note that this provider is affiliated with, and/or owned or controlled by, PeaceHealth or an affiliate thereof, or may participate in PeaceHealth’s established provider organization relating to a bundled payment program.