

To: Hospital Providers Participating in the Nebraska Medicaid Program
From: Kevin Bagley, Director *KB*
Date: January 5, 2021
Re: Hospital Swing Beds for COVID-19 Hospital Discharges

This bulletin is being issued to provide an update to hospitals participating in the Nebraska Medicaid program that are treating Medicaid patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

In the event a patient no longer meets acute level of care but meets nursing facility level of care, and an adequate discharge has not been secured, hospitals will be temporarily permitted to bill swing bed stays. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services waived requirements, in effect allowing Medicare enrolled hospitals to establish skilled nursing facility (SNF) swing beds for Medicare patients. Nebraska Medicaid will also allow hospitals to designate a portion of their beds as swing beds that can be considered nursing facility beds located at the hospital for Medicaid patients. Nebraska Medicaid will reimburse these beds at the established Nebraska Medicaid rate for swing beds.

For patients dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, hospitals must send these claims to Medicare. For Medicaid patients without Medicare coverage, hospitals must bill these services according to the UB-04 Billing instructions found in the Nebraska Medicaid appendix at [471-000-71](#). The swing bed is indicated using Bill Type 18x. Medicaid will accept these claims for these beds for dates of services beginning December 1, 2020, through the end of the public health emergency.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>