

**Distribution:** Nursing Facilities 04-09  
Hospices 04-06

**Issued:** December 1, 2004

**Subject:** Hospital Leave Days

**Effective:** January 1, 2005

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid

### ***Nursing Facilities – Hospital Leave Days***

Michigan Public Health Code, Section 333.21777, has been amended to modify the requirement on reimbursement to nursing facilities to hold beds open for Medicaid beneficiaries who are temporarily absent from the facility. Medicaid is modifying its Hospital Leave Day policy as follows.

For Hospital Leave Days, Medicaid will pay to hold a beneficiary's bed only when the facility's total available bed occupancy is at 98 percent or more on the day the beneficiary leaves the facility. Facilities at 97.5 percent occupancy may round up to 98 percent. This occupancy includes all available licensed beds (e.g., Medicaid certified, dual certified, licensed only beds). The 98 percent or more occupancy does not include beds held open for hospital or therapeutic leave days.

This change is effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2005. Except as explained above, Medicaid's policy on hospital leave days, as outlined in the Nursing Facilities Coverages and Limitations Chapter, remains unchanged.

**Facilities billing for Hospital Leave Days must document in the beneficiary's medical record what the facility's census was at the time the beneficiary left the facility for a hospital leave.**

#### ***Reminder (Coverages and Limitations Chapter – Section 10)***

Facilities are reminded that beneficiaries must be readmitted immediately to the first available bed if the beneficiary still requires nursing home services and is still Medicaid eligible.

In addition, Medicaid asks that nursing facilities make every effort to return Medicaid beneficiaries to their original room and roommate(s). In the event a beneficiary does not return to their original bed, the nursing facility must document in the beneficiary's medical record what efforts were taken to get the beneficiary back to their original bed.

### **Hospices – Hospital Leave Days**

Medicaid reimbursement to hospices for hospital leave days was based on Medicaid's nursing facility policy. Because of the above change, the hospice policy will also change. Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2005, the above 98 percent occupancy rule for nursing facilities will also apply to hospices. The hospice must not bill Medicaid for hospital leave days if the facility's occupancy is less than 98 percent.

### **Post-Payment Review (General Information Chapter – Section 14)**

Medicaid will conduct post-payment reviews of nursing facility and hospice claims to assure the services billed comply with Medicaid published policy.

### **Manual Maintenance**

The nursing facility and hospice should retain this bulletin until the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual is updated with the above information.

### **Questions**

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at [ProviderSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:ProviderSupport@michigan.gov). When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

### **Approved**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Reinhart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Reinhart, Director  
Medical Services Administration