

Inpatient or outpatient?

We are beginning a new educational initiative to help our physicians easily determine whether their Medicare patients should be treated on an inpatient or outpatient basis.

Please review the material below and pick up a reference card in the Boone Hospital Center physician lounge to serve as a guide when you admit a Medicare patient.

Questions? Call Chris Mills, Case Manager at 573.815.7114.

Inpatient Admissions - Medicare Only

1. How long is this patient going to need hospital care?

- **Greater than 2 midnights**

And

Does this patient require inpatient care? If so explain why?

- **Medical necessity and rationale for IP**

Or

2. Is the surgery / procedure on the "Inpatient Only List"?

- **This is a list provided by Medicare that requires an inpatient stay**

* If your assessment at the time of admission validates **either** of the above then:

- a. Write order to **Admit to Inpatient**
- b. Document the estimated length of stay (**Greater than 2 midnights**)
- c. Document medical necessity including **diagnosis and rationale for IP**

Outpatient refer to Observation - Medicare Only

1. How long is this patient going to need hospital care?

- **Less than or equal to 1 midnight**

And

2. Can this Patient be safely treated in an outpatient setting?

- **Not currently treating a specific illness or diagnosis**
- **Diagnostic work up and testing**

* If your assessment at the time of admission validates **either** of the above then:

- a. Write order for **Outpatient refer to Observation**
- b. Document expected length of stay (**Less than or equal to 1 midnight**)
- c. Document **diagnosis and rationale for outpatient**

Outpatient in a Bed - Medicare Only

Is this patient being admitted for a scheduled procedure that does not require inpatient care?

- a. Write order for **Outpatient in a Bed**
 - Refers to all scheduled outpatient procedures