

INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES - RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEDICARE PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS IN EMERGENCY CASES

<p>A407 (Cont.)</p> <p>for FURTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT as required to stabilize the medical condition; or</p> <p>(ii) For transfer of the individual to another medical facility in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.</p>	<p>If a physician is not physically present at the time of transfer, then qualified personnel (as determined by hospital bylaws or other board-approved documents) in consultation with a physician can determine if a patient is stable for transfer.</p> <p>The failure of a receiving facility to provide the care it maintained it could provide to the patient when the transfer was arranged, should not be construed to mean the patient's condition worsened as a result of the transfer.</p> <p>A patient is considered stable for discharge (vs. for transfer from one facility to a second facility) when, within reasonable clinical confidence, it is determined that the patient has reached the point where his/her continued care, including diagnostic work-up and/or treatment, could be reasonably performed as an outpatient or later as an inpatient, provided the patient is given a plan for appropriate follow-up care with the discharge instructions.</p> <p>For purposes of transferring a patient from one facility to a second facility, <u>for psychiatric conditions</u>, the patient is considered to be stable when he/she is protected and prevented from injuring himself/herself or others. For purposes of discharging a patient (other than for the purpose of transfer from one facility to a second facility), for psychiatric conditions, the patient is considered to be stable when he/she is no longer considered to be a threat to him/herself or to others.</p> <p>"Stable for transfer" or "Stable for discharge" does not require the final resolution of the <u>emergency medical condition</u>.</p> <p>Hospitals may not circumvent the requirements in §489.24 by admitting individuals with emergency medical conditions to other departments of the hospital and then discharging them prior to stabilization. These requirements apply to <u>all</u> areas of the hospital.</p> <p>"Transfer" as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, means the movement (including the discharge) of an individual outside a hospital's facilities at the direction of any person employed by (or affiliated or associated, directly or indirectly, with) the hospital, but does not include such a movement of an individual who has been declared dead or leaves the facility without the permission of any such person. If discharge would result in the reasonable medical probability of material deterioration of the patient, the emergency medical condition should not be considered to have been stabilized.</p> <p>When a hospital has exhausted all of its capabilities in attempting to remove the emergency medical condition, it must effect an appropriate transfer of the individual. (See Tag A409)</p>
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