

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Atlanta Federal Center, 4th Floor
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 4T20
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909



INNOVATION & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

Refer: IFM-MAP/ MTN 573913

March 19, 2020

Tee Faircloth
CCI-Coordinated Care Inc.
75 Fifth Street NW 3407
Atlanta, GA 30308

Re: COVID-19 Waiver Requests

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your email to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) confirming the coverage of skilled nursing facility (SNF) care in rural hospitals through the swing bed program under the 1135 waiver authority.

Under this waiver, CAHs and rural (non-CAH) swing-bed hospitals may move patients from their acute care beds to swing beds for extended care services without a 3-day prior hospitalization. The Social Security Act permits CAHs and rural (non-CAH) swing-bed hospitals to enter into a swing bed agreement, under which the hospital can use its beds, as needed, to provide either acute or SNF care. Rural (non-CAH) hospitals are paid under the SNF prospective payment system (PPS) for their SNF-level swing-bed services. By contrast, CAH swing-bed services are not subject to the SNF PPS. Instead, Medicare pays CAHs based on 101 percent of reasonable cost for their swing-bed services. For additional information on swing beds, see: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPSP/SwingBed>.

We hope the information provided is helpful to you. If you have further questions, please let us know or contact your local MAC. If you require additional assistance, please contact Kristen Pennamon at 404-562-7368 or Kristen.Pennamon@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen".

Kristen Pennamon
Acting Group Director
Atlanta-Philadelphia Innovation & Financial Management
The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services