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What are Long-Term Care Hospitals?

Long-term care hospitals are “acute care” hospitals that focus on patients who need inpatient hospital services for a stay, on average, of more than 25 days. Many of these patients transfer from an intensive or critical care unit. They need a longer hospital stay than most people needing inpatient hospital services, who can be admitted to an acute care hospital for a short stay.

Long-term care hospitals specialize in treating patients who have more than one serious condition, but who may improve with time and care, and return home.

Long-term care hospitals may provide services like:

- Respiratory therapy
- Head trauma treatment
- Comprehensive rehabilitation
- Pain management

Do long-term care hospitals give long-term care?

No. These hospitals give inpatient services to people who need a much longer stay to get well. Long-term care usually refers to custodial care, like help with feeding or dressing, that may or may not be given along with some health care. Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, which you can get in your home or in places like assisted living facilities.

Do I pay more than I would in an acute care hospital?

Generally, no. People with Medicare are only responsible for one deductible for any benefit period. A benefit period begins the day you're admitted to a hospital or skilled nursing facility (SNF), and ends when you haven't gotten any inpatient care in a hospital or SNF for 60 days in a row. This applies whether you're in an acute care hospital or a long-term care hospital.

Do I pay more than I would in an acute care hospital? (continued)

You don't have to pay a second deductible for your care in a long-term care hospital if either of these apply to you:

- You're transferred to a long-term care hospital directly from an acute care hospital
- You're admitted to a long-term care hospital within 60 days of being discharged from an inpatient hospital stay

If you're admitted directly to the long-term care hospital more than 60 days after any previous hospital stay, you'll pay the same deductibles and coinsurance as you would if you were being admitted to an acute care hospital.

Note: If you have Original Medicare and a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy, some of your deductible or coinsurance costs may be covered. If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan, your costs may be different. Contact your plan for more information.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit [Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice](https://www.Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

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