

# North Carolina State Health Plan

Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive Major Medical Plan  
and NC HealthChoice

## Sub-Acute Medical & Rehabilitation Facilities

Policy Number: IN0650

**Active policy, not scheduled for routine review.**

### Definition:

A facility providing a cost-effective alternative to an acute hospital or rehabilitative setting to include the following;

- (1) physician and skilled nursing services are available 24 hours a day
- (2) rehabilitation therapies such as physical, occupational, and speech are available at least 5 days a week,
- (3) laboratory, pharmacy, and radiology services are available 24 hours a day, and
- (4) the facility must be able to provide services available in the acute care setting such as oxygen, suction, and intravenous therapy.

### Coverage:

1. Benefit coverage is available at a negotiable per diem rate at the discretion of the Claims Processor with the approval of the Executive Administrator.
2. The facility must have a negotiated contract agreement with the Claims Processor.
3. If certification is not obtained, coverage will be provided at the outpatient, ancillary rate.

### Approval Procedures:

1. Certification is required every 7 days, or less frequently as determined by the Claims Processor.
2. A referral and treatment plan signed and dated by the physician must be submitted to the Medical Review Department.

Documentation must include:

- a. Member ID number
  - b. Patients mailing address
  - c. Medical diagnosis, including the patient's physical and mental status
  - d. Specific statements of long and short-term goals and a reasonable estimate of when the goals will be reached
  - e. Specific rehabilitation therapies to be used in treatment, including frequency and duration
  - f. Specific skilled services required on a continuing, daily basis
3. The provider will be notified of approval requests, and the member and provider will be notified if request is denied.

### Limitations and Exclusions:

1. The patient must be in an acute hospital or rehabilitation facility prior to admission.
2. The patient must appear to have rehabilitative potential.

### Authority:

G.S. 135-40.6(2)(b) G.S.135-39.5(18)  
G.S. 135-40.1(1a) G.S.135-40.6(2)(f)  
G.S. 135-40.7(16)

**Reviewed:**

January 1995

March 2005

**Revised:**

March 2002