

YOUR  
HOSPICE LOGO

# Hospice General Inpatient Facts for Skilled Nursing Facilities

General Inpatient Care (“GIP”) is short-term care provided for a patient’s acute pain management or symptom control that cannot be managed in another setting



It is not for patient caregiver support or for patients who are imminently dying without an acute symptom crisis



General inpatient care under the Medicare hospice benefit is not equivalent to an acute level of care in the hospital.



## Is My Patient Eligible for GIP? Who Decides?

Eligibility for hospice (6 month prognosis) is made by the hospice physician in collaboration with the attending physician, if any. The level of care (GIP in this case) is determined by the hospice interdisciplinary team.

When the patient’s acute symptom crisis resolves, they are transitioned to the routine home care level of hospice care.

## Do I Need a Written Agreement With a Hospice Provider for GIP?

**YES** - For hospice patients admitted to a skilled nursing facility for GIP level of care, federal and state hospice statutes and regulations require an agreement between the hospice and the hospital or SNF for the provision of GIP care to be in writing and contain certain provisions.

# Hospice General Inpatient Facts for Skilled Nursing Facilities (cont.)

## How Long Can a Patient Remain in GIP Care?

The goal of the hospice interdisciplinary team is to stabilize the patient's acute symptom crisis and transition them from GIP to the routine home care level of hospice care. The hospice team is working to achieve this goal from the moment that the patient enters the GIP level of care.

The length of stay must be individualized to the needs of each patient. The level of care must be determined each day based on the interdisciplinary team's assessment.

## How Can a Hospital Make a Referral to Hospice?

Place your hospice information about your hospice and how to make a referral and here.

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## Skilled Nursing Facility and Hospice Provider Collaboration

The hospice provider is the manager of the patient's GIP plan of care per the federal hospice regulations, even if they are not providing 24/7 hands on care. There must be a Registered Nurse in the facility 24/7 providing hands on care to GIP patients.

The hospice interdisciplinary team will visit the patient during the GIP stay to coordinate with nursing facility staff about the patient's status, interventions for care, and plan for transitioning the patient from GIP to the routine home care level of care.