



Patient name:

Patient number:

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**You're a hospital outpatient receiving observation services. You are not an inpatient because:**

- Your provider has ordered outpatient observation services in order to evaluate your symptom(s) and diagnosis if known; and
- Your condition and symptoms will continue to be evaluated to assess whether you will need to be admitted as an inpatient or whether you may be transferred or discharged from the hospital.

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**Being an outpatient may affect what you pay in a hospital:**

- When you're a hospital outpatient, your observation stay is covered under Medicare Part B.
- For Part B services, you generally pay:
  - A copayment for each outpatient hospital service you get. Part B copayments may vary by type of service.
  - 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor services, after the Part B deductible.

**Observation services may affect coverage and payment of your care after you leave the hospital:**

- If you need skilled nursing facility (SNF) care after you leave the hospital, Medicare Part A will only cover SNF care if you've had a 3-day minimum, medically necessary, inpatient hospital stay for a related illness or injury. An inpatient hospital stay begins the day the hospital admits you as an inpatient based on a doctor's order and doesn't include the day you're discharged.
- If you have Medicaid, a Medicare Advantage plan or other health plan, Medicaid or the plan may have different rules for SNF coverage after you leave the hospital. Check with Medicaid or your plan.

**NOTE:** Medicare Part A generally doesn't cover outpatient hospital services, like an observation stay. However, Part A will generally cover medically necessary inpatient services if the hospital admits you as an inpatient based on a doctor's order. In most cases, you'll pay a one-time deductible for all of your inpatient hospital services for the first 60 days you're in a hospital.

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If you have any questions about your observation services, ask the hospital staff member giving you this notice or the doctor providing your hospital care. You can also ask to speak with someone from the hospital's utilization or discharge planning department.

You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

**Your costs for medications:**

Generally, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including “self-administered drugs,” you get in a hospital outpatient setting (like an emergency department) aren’t covered by Part B. “Self-administered drugs” are drugs you’d normally take on your own. For safety reasons, many hospitals don’t allow you to take medications brought from home. If you have a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D), your plan may help you pay for these drugs. You’ll likely need to pay out-of-pocket for these drugs and submit a claim to your drug plan for a refund. Contact your drug plan for more information.

**If you’re enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan (like an HMO or PPO) or other Medicare health plan (Part C),** your costs and coverage may be different. Check with your plan to find out about coverage for outpatient observation services.

**If you’re a Qualified Medicare Beneficiary through your state Medicaid program,** you can’t be billed for Part A or Part B deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.

**Additional Information:**

A Samaritan Health Services nurse or doctor specially trained in Medicare rules will regularly review your stay. If details surrounding your stay indicate that you should transition to an inpatient status, we will let you know. For questions, please contact our nursing specialists via our answering service at 541-750-0069. More information can be found in the Medicare booklet entitled “Are You a Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient?” Please ask our patient registration team for a copy.

Please sign below to show you received and understand this notice.

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Signature of Patient or Representative

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Date / Time

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