	<p align="center">POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</p>
Policy #: 404-1521	Lead Department: Utilization Management
Title: Hospital Stays Where Discharge, Death or Transfer Occurs on the Day of Admission	
Original Date: 01/01/2006	Date Published: 03/24/2025
Approved by: Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)	

Purpose:

To define the Central California Alliance for Health (the Alliance) policy for inpatient stays where admission and discharge (including expiration and transfer) both occur on the same day. These admissions will not have a stay past midnight and do not meet the standard definition of an Inpatient Day.

Policy:

The Alliance ensures that authorization requests for inpatient hospital stays are reviewed in a timely manner and that determinations are based on medical necessity criteria- according to Alliance Policy 404-1112- Medical Necessity - The Definition and Application of Medical Necessity Provision to Authorization Requests.

Definitions:

Admission Transfer Day: Partial day approved by the Alliance in a Hospital for a Member who has been admitted and transferred to another acute care facility prior to midnight on the same day of admission to the Hospital.

Discharged: Patient is admitted to the hospital and discharged home or to a lower level of care on the same day as admission.

Expiration: Patient is admitted to the hospital and dies on the same day as admission.

High-Risk Infant Follow-Up Program: (HRIF) is a program to identify infants who might develop CCS eligible conditions after discharge from a CCS-approved Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).


Transferring Hospital: An acute care facility which admits a patient who is transferred to another acute care facility of the same or higher level of care on the same day of admission.

Receiving Hospital: An acute care facility who receives a patient by transfer from the Transferring Hospital on the same day in which the patient was admitted to the Transferring Hospital.

Inpatient Day: The twenty-four (24) hour period or portion thereof, ending at midnight in which a Member is receiving Inpatient Hospital Services, including day of admission and excluding the day of Member's death or discharge if death or discharge occurs after the day of admission. There shall be at a minimum one (1) Inpatient Day for each Member admission for Inpatient Hospital Services

Procedures:

1. *Review and Authorization:*

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All admissions, excluding routine obstetrical admissions, are reviewed by Alliance Utilization Management staff. Determinations are based on medical necessity criteria according to Alliance Policy 404-1112- Medical Necessity. Admissions that meet the criteria of medical necessity and where the patient expired or was discharged on the same day will be approved for one day after consultation and approval by The Alliance Medical Director.

2. *Reporting:*

For utilization reporting purposes, the same-day stays that resulted in a discharge or expiration will be counted as one admission and one day. For stays that resulted in a transfer, the receiving facility will be the admitting facility and the day of transfer will be the admission date unless the transfer time resulted in the patient being admitted the following day. The transferring facility's admission will not be reported as an inpatient day. Same day transfers will be reported as transfers and not inpatient admissions or days. If an ED visit did occur, it will be reported as an ED visit.

References:

Alliance Policies:

- 404-1112- Medical Necessity - The Definition and Application of Medical Necessity Provision to Authorization Requests
- 404-1305 - Screening and Referral of Medically Eligible Children to California Children's Services Program (CCS)
- 404-1316 - Early Intervention Services
- 404-1530 - Pediatric Complex Case Management

Impacted Departments:

- Claims
- Provider Services

Regulatory:

Legislative:

Contractual (Previous Contract):

DHCS Medi-Cal Contract Exhibit A, Attachment 5

Contractual (2024 Contract):

Medi-Cal Contract, Exhibit A, Attachment 3, Provision 4.3.10

DHCS All Plan Letter:

NCQA:

Supersedes:

Other References:


Attachments:

Lines of Business This Policy Applies To

- ☐ DSNP
- ☒ Medi-Cal
- ☒ Alliance Care IHSS

LOB Effective Dates

- (01/01/2026 - present)
- (01/01/1996 - present)
- (07/01/2005 - present)

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Revision History:

Review Date	Revised Date	Changes Made By	Approved By
01/21/2020	01/21/2020	Viki Doolittle, RN UM Manager-Concurrent Review	UMWG
01/18/2022	01/06/2022	Viki Doolittle, RN UM/CCM Manager	UMWG
12/26/2024	12/26/2024	Linda Walker, RN UM Supervisor-Concurrent Review	UMWG