



FACT SHEET

The 96-Hour Rule

CAH payment rules require a physician to certify that an individual may reasonably be expected to be discharged or transferred within 96 hours after admission.

A CAH must maintain an annual average length of stay of 96 hours or less for acute care patients (excluding swing bed services and observation patients).

To be clear, if we are designated as a CAH there will be a few patients that we will not be able to provide care for, especially those that we know will have a long length of stay.

A few examples of patients that we will consider for transfer (patients that we currently consider for transfer) includes:

- * **Cardiac conditions**
- * **Neurologic conditions**
- * **Some patients who need renal dialysis or require platelet transfusions**
- * **Some elective surgical patients**

Our average length of stay for all patients over the last year (10/1/15 to 09/30/16) was 3.07. For Medicare patients only the average length of stay for that same time period was 3.59.

Our current practices will be updated to fully take advantage of the swing bed option.

A “swing bed” is a lower level of care than acute care. It can be thought of as a “step down” bed or a “skilled nursing facility” level of care.

The use of swing beds provides a great deal of flexibility in the treatment of acute care patients and often will remove the need to transfer the patient away from Holy Cross.