

## COVID-19 CMS Waiver for SNF Providers

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)'s Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Benefit Period Waiver authorizes a one-time renewal of skilled benefits for an additional 100 days of Part A SNF coverage without first having to start a new benefit period (this waiver will apply only for those beneficiaries who have been delayed or prevented by the emergency itself from commencing or completing the process of ending their current benefit period and renewing their SNF benefits that would have occurred under normal circumstances.) There are some members that may have not been able to commence their 60 day break due to COVID-19. Providers should refer to the following guidance from CMS:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/se20011.pdf>

For claims payment of the additional skilled benefit days, the provider shall:

1. Track the benefit days used in the benefit periods waiver spell and fax new/updated Nursing Facility Communication forms (DHS-4461-ENG) to Utilization Management notating on the form member is receiving additional Medicare benefit days related to the Public Health Emergency (PHE) waiver.
2. Fully document in members medical records the reasons member qualifies for the additional benefit.
3. Reference billing guidance per CMS in the above link for billing requirements including condition codes.