

# Skilled Nursing

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) care for individuals who require rehabilitative services and/or the daily attention of nurses. Such patients no longer need all of the medical support provided by a hospital, but they need more skilled care than they would have at home or in a nursing home. SNF provide specialized nursing care.

Regence BlueShield contracts with several skilled nursing facilities (SNF) throughout Washington state. Sometimes they are known as transitional care units, extended care facilities, nursing homes, or sub-acute facilities. To verify the member's benefits and eligibility please contact provider customer service at **1-800-322-1737**.

SNF admissions require a prior authorization. To obtain prior authorization please call Regence BlueShield's care coordinators at **1-800-367-2766**.

## Levels of Care

Revenue Code	Description
<b>Level 1 (120)</b>	The member is medically stable but requires 24 hours of nursing observation, assessment, monitoring, and intervention. Therapies focus on functional outcomes by increasing strength and endurance with appropriate physical restoration and reduced deterioration. Treatment goals are to improve and maintain function and to focus on an individual's ability to independently meet his or her activities of daily living.
<b>Level 2 (128)</b>	The member requires more sub acute medical intervention with a medical status that requires more intensive monitoring and treatment. The member requires moderate to maximal assist in activities of daily living and mobility management with therapy interventions necessary to improve functional outcomes and levels of independence. Emphasis is more on rehabilitative issues than acute nursing needs. This level would include hip and knee replacements, stroke members and other rehabilitation diagnoses.
<b>Level 3 (129)</b>	The member requires additional sub acute skilled care. Emphasis is on nursing needs rather than rehabilitative issues. This level would include ventilator members and those with more medically complex needs.

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### Billing Guidelines

- The SNF facility should submit on an UB-04 form with the agreed upon revenue code for services rendered. Not doing so may result in payment delays.
- The care manager must authorize any care outside the per diem rate. The reimbursement is the lesser of the billed charge or contracted rate, whichever is less.
- Reimbursement for SNF includes room and board only.
- Do not bill for outpatient services, including but not limited to Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy.