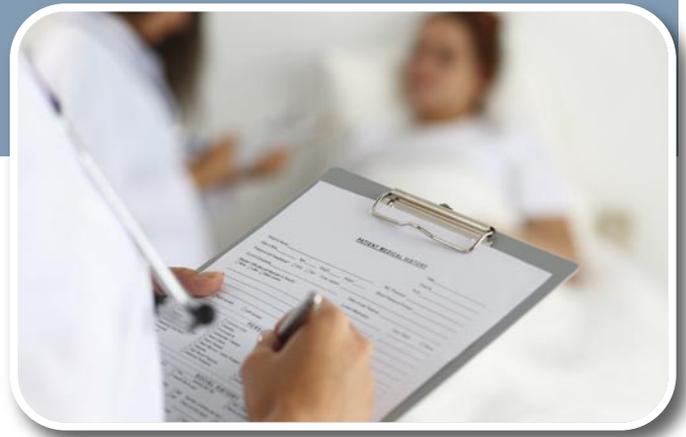


# Observation



## Observation Status

- » Observation is an outpatient service provided within the hospital. You are not admitted as an inpatient because your physician has determined that your current condition does not meet inpatient requirements.
- » The purpose of observation status is to allow your physician time for ongoing assessment or short-term medical treatment to determine if you need to be admitted as an inpatient or are well enough to be discharged.
- » Your expected length of stay is usually less than 24 hours and may be up to 48 hours
- » You may have to pay for services beyond 48 hours. If you are a Medicare patient, will be notified in writing if you are responsible for these charges.
- » You will receive the same quality of care from the physician and nursing staff as any other patient in the hospital
- » You may qualify for observation level of care if you have symptoms without a definite illness or are expected to stay less than two nights. Examples of symptoms include:

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| - Chest pain              | - Dehydration |
| - Urinary Tract Infection | - Fainting    |
| - Abdominal Pain          | - Diarrhea    |



## At observation level of care the following may apply:

### Non-Medicare Insurance:

- » Your coverage depends on the insurance plan you've selected. If you have questions please call the phone number on the back of your insurance card.

### Traditional Medicare:

- » Medicare may not pay for a nursing home or swing bed following your observation stay.
- » Some medications may not be covered.
- » During your stay, you will receive a Medicare Outpatient Observation notice regarding your level of care.
- » If you have questions, please see the back of this document for further information.

### Medicare Advantage:

- » Your coverage depends on the Medicare Advantage plan you've selected. During your stay, you will receive a Medicare Outpatient Observation notice regarding your level of care.
- » If you have questions please call the phone number on the back of your insurance card.
- \*If you have any questions about your insurance coverage, talk to a member of your care team.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What is the difference between inpatient, observation and outpatient?**

Altru is required to review your level of care when you enter the hospital. You will be assigned one of the following:

- » Inpatient: Medically complex and expected to be in the hospital more than two nights.
- » Outpatient Observation: not medically complex or not expected to be in the hospital two nights.
- » Outpatient: Procedure with a length of stay less than two nights.

### **Are medications covered under observation status?**

- » Covered medications: medications given through an IV and some chemotherapy medications.
- » Not covered medication: medications that you normally give yourself at home also referred to as self-administered medications (example, medications taken by mouth, rectally, or injectables such as insulin).

Medications not covered during your stay may be partially reimbursed through your Medicare D plan. If you would like an itemized list of medication to submit with your Medicare D claim, contact the Patient Financial Services at 701.780.1500.

### **Is this a qualifying stay for a nursing home?**

No, because outpatient level of care is considered an outpatient service.

### **If I am a Medicare patient where can I go for further information?**

Visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) or by calling 1.800.633.4227.

### **What if I have further questions about my observation status?**

If you have further questions, please contact a member of your healthcare team.