Acute Hospital Care at Home Waiver Program Alignment

Last reviewed October 2026 · https://www.integralhs.com/acute-hospital-care-at-home-waiver

What to have ready

Each item ties to CMS's AHCAH data release fact sheet [https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/acute-hospital-care-home-data-release-fact-sheet-0] (March 17, 2026) or AHCAH blog [https://www.cms.gov/blog/lessons-cms-acute-hospital-care-home-initiative] (December 17, 2024), as published.

- Confirmation that your hospital is an acute care hospital paid under the inpatient prospective payment system, the hospitals the blog describes AHCAH as allowing to expand inpatient care into patients' homes (blog).
- A written description of how nursing services will work in the home without on-premises nursing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and without a registered nurse immediately available, the two requirements the AHCAH waivers of 42 CFR § 482.23(b) and (b)(1) suspended (fact sheet).
- Your current hospital policies, mapped to the health and safety requirements that were not waived, since hospitals “continued to meet all health and safety requirements that were not waived through the PHE waiver authority under section 1135 of the Act” (fact sheet). Add the “Physical Environment” and “Life Safety Code” CoPs the fact sheet says the Secretary waived, checked against CMS's current waiver terms.
- Draft patient inclusion criteria. CMS notes that “Patient inclusion criteria were developed by each hospital, based on the hospital's experience and resource capabilities to provide inpatient-level care in the home environment” (blog).
- Your escalation and transfer procedures as they stand. CMS meets with each requesting hospital to assess whether it can provide high-quality and safe care in home settings (blog), and the fact sheet defines “patient escalations” as patients whose care involved a transfer from the home to the traditional inpatient setting.
- A named owner for the safety and quality metrics reported to CMS weekly or monthly, depending on the hospital's experience level (fact sheet). CMS's released data include new patients admitted to the home setting, patient escalations and unanticipated mortalities, as CMS defines them (fact sheet).
- A program calendar that records the extension date CMS states: section 6210 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-75) extended the AHCAH waivers and flexibilities until September 30, 2030 (fact sheet).
- The person at your hospital who will submit the waiver request through the dedicated CMS portal (blog). CMS's portal pages did not show request materials when we reviewed them, so IHS drafts from what your hospital supplies.