

Swing Beds

May be the right choice based on your medical needs

by Sheila Carlson

The term “Swing Bed” is used to describe the level of care hospitalized patients receive once they are no longer in need of acute care. Swing bed admissions are limited to patients who require some level of skilled care and are currently in a hospital acute care bed. Patients cannot be admitted to a swing bed from either the community or a skilled nursing facility unless they have spent three days (actually counted by midnights) in an acute care hospital bed for related service needs within the past 30 days. Observation room days are not counted in the required three day stay for swing bed admissions. The following definitions may further assist you in understanding the difference between acute care days and observation room days.

Acute Care Days refers to healthcare that is provided in a hospital, where a patient is treated for a **brief but severe condition**, usually resulting from disease, trauma or surgery.

Observation Room Days refers to healthcare that is provided in a hospital, where the patient is monitored by hospital staff to **evaluate an outpatient condition** to determine the need for an acute care admission

Mille Lacs Health System offers a variety of recuperative options for the patients we serve. Swing Beds may be the right choice based on your medical needs.

The Bridge Home:

Admission criteria to a Swing Bed is not necessarily based on the diagnosis, but rather on the skilled need(s), which may differ from patient to patient depending on the patient’s:

- Medical History
- Physical Strength / Stamina
- Age
- Co-Morbidities (other illnesses)
- Complex Medical Conditions
- Discharge Plan

Patient’s must have skilled nursing needs 7 days/ week and/or skilled therapy needs 5days/week and they must have spent three days (midnights) in an acute care hospital bed for the related service needs within the last 30 days.

How do we arrange for a Swing Bed admission?

Do you anticipate skilled care needs after an Acute Hospital stay?

Skilled care needs may include Skilled Nursing Care, Nutritional Support, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy or Speech Therapy.

If so, please contact any of the following for more information:

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