

 How does AdmissionCare support the Medicare 2 Midnight Rule?

AdmissionCare supports physicians with making compliant 2 Midnight determinations by embedding within your admission process industry-standard criteria to document a patient's:

- Complexity of medical factors
- Severity of illness
- Co-morbidities
- Risks for adverse outcome

When a patient meets Inpatient criteria utilizing MCG's guidelines, the expectation is that care will likely extend beyond 2 days.

Regulatory Background

Why does the Medicare 2 Midnight Rule exist?

- Patients complained about extended observation stays at a hospital
- At the time this led to higher copays and not qualifying for SNF placement.
- It was determined that Inpatient care is warranted if the patient is expected to require a hospital stay that crosses two midnights AND the medical record supports this reasonable expectation.
- However, the 2 MDN rule does not simply involve passage of a second midnight in the hospital. The patient needs to have medical necessity of that second midnight.

Physician Responsibility

The admitting physician is responsible for documenting the patient's medical necessity and expectation that the patient may require hospital care that crosses two midnights.

Expectation should be based on:

- Complexity of medical factors (such as patient history and comorbidities)
- Severity of signs and symptoms
- Current medical needs
- Risk of an adverse event

The factors contributing to a particular clinical expectation must be documented in the medical record to be in compliance.

If your health system has the additional feature of **Supplemental Medicare Criteria** enabled, Click [HERE](#) to access that tip sheet.