

Hospice General Inpatient Facts for Hospitals

General Inpatient Care ("GIP") is **short-term** care provided for a patient's acute pain management or symptom control that cannot be managed in another setting

It is not for patient caregiver support or for patients who are imminently dying without an acute symptom crisis

General inpatient care under the hospice benefit is not equivalent to a hospital level of care under the Medicare hospital benefit

A brief period of general inpatient care may be needed in some cases when a patient elects the hospice benefit at the end of a covered hospital stay, but the patient must meet GIP criteria to receive GIP care



Is My Patient Eligible for GIP? Who Decides?

The GIP eligibility decision is made by the hospice physician in collaboration with the attending physician and level of care is determined by the hospice interdisciplinary team.

When the patient's acute symptom crisis resolves, they are transitioned to the routine home care level of hospice care.

Do I Need a Written Agreement With a Hospice Provider for GIP?

Yes - For hospice patients admitted to a hospital for GIP level of care, federal and state hospice statutes and regulations govern the care and treatment provided by the hospital staff to the hospice patient in the GIP level of hospice care.



Hospital and Hospice Provider Collaboration

The hospice provider is the manager of the patient's GIP plan of care per the federal hospice regulations, even if they are not providing 24/7 hands on care.

The hospice interdisciplinary team will visit the patient during the GIP stay to coordinate with hospital staff about the patient's status, interventions for care, and plan for transitioning the patient from GIP to the routine home care level of hospice care.



How Long Can a Patient Remain in GIP Care?

The goal of the hospice interdisciplinary team is to stabilize the patient's acute symptom crisis and transition them from GIP to the routine home care level of hospice care. The hospice team is working to achieve this goal from the moment that the patient enters the GIP level of care.

The length of stay must be individualized to the needs of each patient. The level of care must be determined each day based on the interdisciplinary team's assessment.

