

Initial Hospital / Hospice Care and Discharge on Same Day

A 92 year old female has been in the hospital for 2 weeks, her health is deteriorating and the decision was made to transfer the patient to hospice care. The patient will not be moving from her hospital room; just the status of the patient has changed from hospital inpatient to inpatient hospice.

The quandary is: Can the physician bill an inpatient hospital discharge code and the initial hospital/hospice care code for the hospice admit on the **same day**?

- The answer is No

Medicare regulations state that the physician may bill both the hospital discharge management code and an initial hospital care code when the discharge and admission do not occur on the same day if the transfer is between.

- **Different hospitals**
- **Different facilities under common ownership which do not have *merged records***
- **Between the acute care hospital and PPS exempt unit within the same hospital when there are no *merged records*.**

For all other transfer circumstances, the physician should bill a subsequent hospital care code.

Happy Coding