Clinical Coverage Guideline:
Short Inpatient Hospital Stays (Allwell and Ambetter)

Ambetter from Home State Health and Allwell from Home State Health are implementing the following policy for **Short Inpatient Hospital Stays effective September 1, 2020.**

**Summary of Policy:**

Observation care is a well-defined set of specific, clinically appropriate services, which include ongoing short term treatment, assessment, and reassessment before a decision can be made regarding whether patients will require further treatment as hospital inpatients or if they are able to be discharged from the hospital.

**What does this mean for providers?**

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that inpatient hospital stays (vs. observation) of 2 days or less are medically necessary for one of the following indications:

- Admission is for a procedure on the CMS Inpatient Only List, (addendum E found here);
- Admission to an intermediate or intensive care unit level of care (including neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) considered medically necessary per a nationally-recognized clinical decision support tool;
- Unexpected death during the admission;
- Departure against medical advice from a medically necessary (per a nationally-recognized clinical decision support tool) inpatient stay;
- Transferred from another facility, with a medically necessary (per a nationally-recognized clinical decision support tool) total length of stay greater than 2 days;
- Election of hospice care in lieu of continued treatment in hospital.

**Note:** The policy at the link below will provide background and references for medical record review.

Review the complete policy at:

[https://www.homestatehealth.com/providers/tools-resources/clinical-payment-policies.html](https://www.homestatehealth.com/providers/tools-resources/clinical-payment-policies.html)

We are here to help. If you need further information, please contact Provider Services at the numbers below.

Contact Provider Partnership:

**HomeStateHealth.com**  
**Allwell.HomeStateHealth.com**  
**Ambetter.HomeStateHealth.com**

**Home State: 1-855-694-4663**  

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