Readmissions: What Code Should I Submit?
Initial Comprehensive Nursing Facility Evaluation vs. Initial Nursing Facility Services CPT Code*

Scenario:	Initial Comprehensive Nursing Facility Evaluation[1] Necessary?	Initial Code vs Subsequent (Subs.):	Place of Service Code:	Notes:
Part A SNF patient returns in less than 3 days (i.e., "Interrupted Stay[2]")	No	Subs. 99307-99310	31	Some payers/intermediaries may accept Initial 99304-99306 code if supported by documentation
Part A SNF patient returns to Part A SNF after >3 days	Yes	Initial 99304-99306	31	New admission/stay; append modifier-AI if attending physician of record[1]
Part A SNF patient returns from hospital to long-term custodial	Yes	Initial 99304-99306	32	New admission to custodial care; facility performs Initial Comprehensive Assessment and Care Plan
LTC/custodial resident returns from hospital under Part A SNF benefit	Yes	Initial 99304-99306	31	Facility switches from long term (POS 32) to skilled (POS 31); new Comprehensive Assessment required; -AI if attending physician
LTC/custodial resident returns from a hospitalization to a custodial/LTC bed without formal discharge from the nursing facility	No	Subs. 99307-99310	32	Some payers/intermediaries may accept an Initial 99304-99306 code, if supported by documentation.
LTC/custodial resident returns from a hospitalization to a custodial/LTC bed after formal discharge from the nursing facility	Yes	Initial 99304-99306	32	A Nursing Facility Discharge Management service 99315 or 99316 would be appropriate if it met the coding requirements (which includes a face-to-face encounter); a discharge summary would be required in either case.

*Medicare Advantage and commercial plans may follow different policies. Always confirm payer-specific policies and any state-specific regulations

[1]See Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 12, 30.6.13 - Nursing Facility Services

[2]See Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 6, 120.2 - Interrupted Stay Policy

REFERENCES

1. State Operations Manual, Appendix PP-Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities (https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf)
2. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 8-Coverage of Extended Care (SNF) Services Under Hospital Insurance (https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/manuals/downloads/bp102c08pdf.pdf)
3. Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 6—SNF Inpatient Part A Billing and SNF Consolidated Billing (https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c06.pdf)
4. Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 12—Physicians/Nonphysicians Practitioners (https://go.cms.gov/manual-physicians-nonphysician-practitioners)
5. American Medical Association. CPT 2026: Professional Edition. Chicago: AMA Press; 2025.