

Patient Label



Observation Status Information Notice for Patients

Medicare and commercial insurances require your physician at Mount Nittany Medical Center to determine the correct status for your stay at our facility. It has been determined that you are being placed in Observation status during your hospital visit. Mount Nittany Medical Center uses InterQual, which is a national criteria for medical necessity. Even though you will be in a hospital bed receiving the same care that you would if you were an inpatient, **your visit will be billed to your insurance as an Outpatient service.**

This means your co-pays and deductibles will be the same as other Outpatient hospital services, and your inpatient benefits will not apply to this visit.

Your length of stay is expected to be less than 48 hours. If your physician decides that your condition requires an acute inpatient level of care, he/she will write an order to convert your Observation stay to an Inpatient admission. Your actual length of stay is determined by your physician and your condition and/or progress.

You may contact Medicare or your commercial health insurance provider if you have any questions about your benefits or to better understand observation. (Medicare 1-800-633-4227 or Commercial Insurance please review the back of your insurance card for telephone number)

In addition to the above, Observation status under Medicare means:

- Your observation stay DOES NOT count toward a three day inpatient qualifying stay requirement for admission to a skilled nursing facility under Medicare Part A.
- You may be liable for some charges on your bill, if they are not covered under your part B Medicare.
- If you have Medicare Part B, you will be responsible for your yearly Medicare Part B deductibles and any co-insurance.

Final decisions about outpatient observation can be made after a patient is discharged under PA Act 169.

If you have any questions, please ask your nurse to contact your Case Management Team.

Patient/ Representative

Date