June 20, 2016

Q: A long term care facility recently had a referral for a Medicare patient who was living in a supportive living facility. The LTC facility accepted and were ready to admit when the supportive living told the resident, if they went to a SNF, they would be evicted and lose their supportive living apartment. The resident had to forfeit his Medicare benefit and is trying to meet recovery needs with home health. Do you know if supportive living have a bed/apartment hold requirement for tenants on Medicaid waiver?

A: Medicaid residents of supportive living facilities have a temporary absence/bedhold payment coverage for 30 days per state fiscal year for all stays but SNF. HFS has never adjusted their payment system to allow for temporary absence Medicaid payment when the absence is a SNF stay (“cannot pay two forms of LTC at the same time”). A resident can hold their room at the SL for any type of temporary absence by covering the cost of stay with their own assets or family supplementation.