QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR NURSING FACILITY ACUTE CARE BENEFIT

1) Pneumonia

Qualifying Diagnosis:
- Chest x-ray confirmation of a new pulmonary infiltrate

OR TWO or more of the following:
- Fever > 100°F (oral) or two degrees above baseline
- Blood Oxygen saturation level < 92% on room air or on usual O2 settings in patients with chronic oxygen requirements.
- Respiratory rate above 24 breaths/minute
- Evidence of focal pulmonary consolidation on exam, including rales, rhonchi, decreased breathe sounds, or dullness to percussion

Symptomatic guidance: Productive cough, increased functional decline, increased dependence in ADLs, reduced oral intake, or increase lethargy, altered mental statue, dyspnea

Treatment: Antibiotic therapy (oral or parenteral), hydration (oral, sc, or IV), oxygen therapy, and/or bronchodilator treatments. Additional nursing supervision for symptom assessment and management (vital sign monitoring, lab/diagnostic test coordination and reporting)

Maximum Benefit Period: 7 days x $218 = $1,526

2) Congestive Heart Failure

Qualifying Diagnosis:
- Chest x-ray confirmation of a new pulmonary congestion

OR TWO or more of the following:
- Blood Oxygen saturation level below 92% on room air or on usual O2 settings in patients with chronic oxygen requirements.
- New or worsening pulmonary rales
- New or worsening edema
- New or increased jugulo-venous distension
- BNP>300

Symptomatic Guidance: Acute onset of dyspnea (shortness of breath), orthopnea (SOB when lying down), paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea (SOB waking the patient at night), new or increased leg or presacral edema, and/or unexpected weight gain.

Treatment: Increased diuretic therapy, obtain EKG to rule out cardiac ischemia or arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation that could precipitate heart failure, vital sign or cardiac monitoring every shift, daily weights, oxygen therapy, low salt diet, and review of medications, including beta- blockers, ACE inhibitors, ARBS, aspirin, spironolactone, and statins, monitoring renal function, laboratory and radiologic monitoring.

Maximum Benefit Period: 7 days x $218 = $1,526

3) Skin Infection

Qualifying Diagnosis:
- New onset of painful, warm and/or swollen/indurated skin infection requiring oral or parenteral antibiotic therapy.
- If associated with a skin ulcer or wound there is an acute change in condition with signs of infection such as purulence, exudate, fever, new onset of pain, and/or induration.

Treatment: Frequent turning, nutritional assessment and/or supplementation, at least daily wound inspection and/or periodic wound debridement, cleansing, dressing changes, and antibiotics (oral or parenteral).
Maximum Benefit Period: 7 days x $218 = $1,526

4) Fluid or Electrolyte Disorder or Dehydration

Qualifying Diagnosis:
- Any acute change in condition
- AND TWO or more of the following:
  - Reduced urine output in 24 hours or reduced oral intake by approximately 25% or more of average intake for 3 consecutive days
  - New onset of Systolic BP < 100 mm Hg (Lying, sitting or standing)
  - 20% increase in Blood Urea nitrogen (e.g. from 20 to 24)
  - 20% increase in Serum Creatinine (e.g. from 1.0 to 1.2)
  - sodium > 145 or < 135
  - Orthostatic drop in systolic BP of 20 mmHg or more going from supine to sitting or standing.

Treatment: Parenteral (IV or clysis) fluids, lab/diagnostic test coordination and reporting, and careful evaluation for the underlying cause, including assessment of oral intake, medications (diuretics or renal toxins), infection, shock, heart failure, and kidney failure.

Maximum Benefit Period: 5 days x $218 = $1,090

5) COPD/Asthma

Qualifying Diagnosis:
- Known diagnosis of COPD/Asthma or CXR showing COPD with hyperinflated lungs and no infiltrates
- AND TWO or more of the following:
  - Symptoms of wheezing, shortness of breath, or increased sputum production
  - Blood Oxygen saturation level below 92% on room air or on usual O2 settings in patients with chronic oxygen requirements
  - Acute reduction in Peak Flow or FEV1 on spirometry.
  - Respiratory rate > 24 breaths/minute

Treatment: Increased Bronchodilator therapy, usually with a nebulizer, IV or oral steroids, oxygen, and sometimes antibiotics.

Maximum Benefit Period: 7 days x $218 = $1,526

6) Urinary Tract Infection

Qualifying Diagnosis:
- >100,000 colonies of bacteria growing in the urine with no more than 2 species of microorganisms.
- AND One or more of the following:
  - Fever > 100° F (oral) or two degrees above baseline
  - Peripheral WBC count > 14,000
  - Symptoms of: dysuria, new or increased urinary frequency, new or increased urinary incontinence, altered mental status, gross hematuria, or acute costovertebral angle pain or tenderness

Symptomatic Guidance: Dysuria, frequency, new incontinence, altered mental status, hematuria, CVA tenderness.

Treatment: Oral or parenteral antibiotics, lab/diagnostic test coordination and reporting, monitoring and management of urinary frequency, incontinence, agitation and other adverse effects.

Maximum Benefit Period: 7 days x $218 = $1,526