Inpatient or outpatient?

We are beginning a new educational initiative to help our physicians easily determine whether their Medicare patients should be treated on an inpatient or outpatient basis.

Please review the material below and pick up a reference card in the Boone Hospital Center physician lounge to serve as a guide when you admit a Medicare patient.

Questions? Call Chris Mills, Case Manager at 573.815.7114.

Inpatient Admissions - Medicare Only

1. How long is this patient going to need hospital care?
   • Greater than 2 midnights
And
   Does this patient require inpatient care? If so explain why?
   • Medical necessity and rationale for IP

Or

2. Is the surgery / procedure on the “Inpatient Only List”?
   • This is a list provided by Medicare that requires an inpatient stay

* If your assessment at the time of admission validates either of the above then:
  a. Write order to Admit to Inpatient
  b. Document the estimated length of stay (Greater than 2 midnights)
  c. Document medical necessity including diagnosis and rationale for IP

Outpatient refer to Observation - Medicare Only

1. How long is this patient going to need hospital care?
   • Less than or equal to 1 midnight
And
   2. Can this Patient be safely treated in an outpatient setting?
      • Not currently treating a specific illness or diagnosis
      • Diagnostic work up and testing

* If your assessment at the time of admission validates either of the above then:
  a. Write order for Outpatient refer to Observation
  b. Document expected length of stay (Less than or equal to 1 midnight)
  c. Document diagnosis and rationale for outpatient

Outpatient in a Bed - Medicare Only

Is this patient being admitted for a scheduled procedure that does not require inpatient care?
   a. Write order for Outpatient in a Bed
      - Refers to all scheduled outpatient procedures