



Mercy Hospital Lincoln
1000 East Cherry Street
636.528.3417 or 636.528.3245

Skilled Care

Easing the Move from
Hospital to Home

From Hospital to Home

You are ready to be released from the hospital, but you may need a little more time and specialized care to fully recover. This is often the case if you've had a joint replacement, stroke, head injury or other surgery. Or, you may need treatment to manage pain or extra care to help a wound heal.

In these situations, Mercy Hospital provides skilled care to help you regain strength and independence. Skilled care allows patients who have been treated in a hospital to remain close to home for follow-up care. In hospital settings, skilled care is often called a "swing bed."



Services

Our skilled care is a combination of 24-hour nursing services, rehabilitation therapies and education, including:

- Cardiac monitoring
- IV medications
- Daily injections
- Feeding tube adjustments
- Respiratory treatments requiring adjustments
- Physical, occupational and speech therapies twice daily
- Patient and family education for new conditions, such as diabetes or colostomy care
- Nutritional counseling
- Acute and chronic disease management

Who qualifies for skilled care?

In addition to your physician's referral, you might need to be in the hospital for at least three nights before transfer to skilled care. Please contact your local program coordinator for additional qualifications as they may differ based on your insurance provider.

Speak with your physician or case manager who will refer you to our program. Once a referral is made, a Mercy representative will review your records to ensure you will benefit from skilled care services.

How is skilled care different from a typical hospital stay?

With skilled care, we'll help you recuperate and regain your maximum level of independence in a comfortable environment. During the day, you will receive therapy and treatment based on your condition and recovery goals. Similar to the hospital, you'll receive around-the-clock nursing care which is overseen by your Mercy physician.

When you are not in therapy, you can spend time visiting with family and friends or just relaxing.

How long can I stay?

You can receive skilled care as long as you have therapy and rehabilitation goals to meet. Once you have reached your goals, you may be able to return home. You may also need to explore additional care options. Discharge assistance and social workers are available to assist you.

What does insurance cover?

Medicare and some commercial insurance plans pay for skilled care (often called swing bed care or skilled nursing facility) differently than they do hospital care. Medicare and some commercial insurance plans will cover the first 20 days of skilled care at 100%, as long as there is a skilled service needed, provided and accepted.

Medicare and some commercial insurance plans require a co-pay for days 21 through discharge (or day 100, whichever comes first), as long as you continue to require a skilled service. If you have supplemental insurance, it may cover your co-pay.

Also, Medicare and some commercial insurance plans do NOT pay for custodial care. Custodial care is general nursing care provided when a patient's condition is not expected to improve.

If you are unclear about the type of care you are eligible for under Medicare, it is important to ask your care manager for assistance.

For more information about our skilled care services, please call Mercy Hospital Lincoln at 636.528.3245.

