WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reimburses skilled nursing facility services under Part A of Medicare benefits provided the beneficiary has had a preceding three-night stay as an inpatient in a hospital;

AND WHEREAS, CMS’ criteria for hospital admissions and “inpatient status” have evolved over time and even patients who are in need of skilled nursing services, medical services, and rehabilitation services that are not available in their residences may not qualify for an inpatient stay and are increasingly staying at hospitals for “observation,” thereby disallowing reimbursement for the ensuing skilled nursing facility stay;

AND WHEREAS, even those patients who meet the inpatient criteria and stay for three days in a hospital can often times be treated safely at SNFs from the outset,

AND WHEREAS, value-based care programs such as iSNPs, BPCI, and double-sided risk model ACOs have shown cost savings when the three-night inpatient hospital stay requirements for SNF stay are waived, in favor of physicians’ determination of necessity for patient’s SNF admission;

AND WHEREAS, many such patients who would greatly benefit from skilled nursing facility stay for nursing, medical and rehabilitation services, instead go home without adequate care and support, and end up sicker and are re-hospitalized,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine work with the American Medical Association (AMA) and other interested parties to seek legislative and/or regulatory action modifying the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Part A benefits to enable physicians to certify the need for skilled nursing facility care for beneficiaries independent of preceding hospitalizations, after an assessment to establish medical necessity for such care.
FISCAL NOTE:
If passed by the House of Delegates and adopted as Society policy by the Board of Directors, the fiscal impact of this would be low, as it would be incorporated into AMDA’s existing and ongoing advocacy and coalition work.

RESOLUTION RESULTS: <FOR AMDA OFFICE ONLY>