

## Medicare Definitions:

As listed in the June 2012 Medicare Learning Network Official CMS Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Provider:

**Providers of outpatient therapy and outpatient speech-language pathology services** may also be called Outpatient Physical Therapy (OPT)/Other Rehabilitation Facility (ORF)/Outpatient Speech Pathology (OSP).

There are three types of organizations that may qualify as OPT/ORF/OSP providers. However, almost all OPT/ORF/OSP providers are rehabilitation agencies. These organizations are:

### **Rehabilitation Agency**

An agency that provides an integrated, multidisciplinary program designed to upgrade the physical functions of handicapped, disabled individuals by bringing together, as a team, specialized rehabilitation personnel. At a minimum, a rehabilitation agency must provide physical therapy or speech-language pathology services and a rehabilitation program. Occupational therapy cannot be substituted for the physical therapy requirement. It may be provided in addition to physical therapy or speech-language pathology services.

### **Clinic**

A clinic is a facility established primarily for the provision of outpatient physicians' services. To meet the definition of a clinic, the facility must meet the following test of physician participation:

- The medical services of the clinic are provided by a group of three or more physicians practicing medicine together;
- A physician is present in the clinic at all times during hours of operation to perform medical services (rather than only administrative services).

### **Public Health Agency**

An official agency established by a State or local government, the primary function of which is to maintain the health of the population served by providing environmental health services, preventive medical services, and in certain instances, therapeutic services.

### **Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF)**

A CORF is a facility established and operated at a single fixed location exclusively for the purpose of providing diagnostic, therapeutic, and restorative services to outpatients by or under the supervision of a physician.

The CORF must provide the following core CORF services:

- CORF physicians' services;
- Physical therapy services; and

- Social and/or psychological services.

CORFs may also provide the following optional services:

- Occupational therapy;
- Respiratory therapy;
- Speech-language pathology;
- Prosthetic/orthotic devices;
- Nursing services;
- Drugs and biological;
- Supplies and Durable Medical Equipment (DME);
- Home Environment Evaluations; and
- Vaccines, and
- Lab services.

Physical therapy services should comprise a clear majority of the total CORF services provided. The purpose of a CORF is to permit the beneficiary to receive multidisciplinary rehabilitation services at a single location in a coordinated fashion.

### **Hospital**

A [hospital](#) (other than psychiatric) means an institution which is primarily engaged in providing, by or under the supervision of physicians, to inpatients, diagnostic and therapeutic services for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care of injured, disabled, or sick persons; or rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons. Outpatient services are optional.

### **Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)**

A [Skilled Nursing Facility](#) is a facility which:

- Is primarily engaged in providing to residents skilled nursing care and related services for residents who require medical or nursing care; or
- Is primarily engaged in providing to residents skilled rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons; or
- On a regular basis engaged in providing health-related care and services to beneficiaries who because of their mental or physical condition require care and services which is available to them only through these facilities and is not primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases;
- Has in effect a transfer agreement (meeting the requirements of the Social Security Act with one or more hospitals having agreements in effect under the Social Security Act); and
- Meets the requirements for a SNF described in the Social Security Act.

**Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and Speech-Language Pathologist** in private practice includes therapists who are practicing therapy as employees of another supplier, of a professional corporation or other incorporated therapy practice. Private practice does not include individuals when they are working as employees of an institutional provider. The contractor considers a therapist to be in private practice if the therapist maintains office space at his or her own expense and furnishes services



only in that space or the beneficiary's home. Or, a therapist is employed by another supplier and furnishes services in facilities provided at the expense of that supplier.

**State Definitions:**

1. [Hospitals](#)
2. [Skilled Nursing Facility](#)

