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### Proposed IRF Rule Would End Post-Admission Evals, Expand APP Role

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Providers are hopeful that some of the COVID-19 blanket waivers that reduce their burden or expand telehealth services will become permanent, and one wish has tentatively been granted: the 2021 proposed inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) prospective payment system regulation<sup>[1]</sup> would end the requirement for post-admission physician evaluations.

“We do believe that removing the post-admission physician evaluation would reduce administrative and paperwork burden for both IRF providers and” Medicare administrative contractors, CMS said in the regulation, which was published in the *Federal Register* on April 21. If this provision of the regulation is finalized before the public health emergency ends, rehabilitation physicians may never resume post-admission evaluations. Post-admission evaluations were waived in the April 6 interim final rule, Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.<sup>[2]</sup>

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