What items and services generally are (and are not) covered under Part A (Hospital Insurance) when provided in a participating skilled nursing facility?

The following items and services are covered when provided in a participating skilled nursing facility:

* Bed and board in a semiprivate room (two to four beds in a room), unless the patient’s condition requires isolation or no semiprivate rooms are available.
* Nursing care provided by, or under the supervision of, a registered nurse (but not private-duty nursing).
* Drugs, biologicals, supplies (such as splints and casts), appliances (such as wheelchairs) and equipment for use in the facility.
* Medical social services, including the assessment of the patient’s medical and nursing requirements, the patient’s financial resources, home situation, and the community services available to him. Such services may also include the assessment of the social and emotional factors related to the patient’s illness, and the patient’s need for care, response to treatment, and adjustment to care in the skilled nursing facility. Appropriate action to obtain case work services to assist in resolving problems in these areas is covered by Medicare.
* Medical services of interns and residents in training under an approved teaching program of a hospital.
* Other diagnostic or therapeutic services provided by a hospital with which the facility has a transfer agreement.
* Rehabilitation services, such as physical, occupational, and speech therapy, furnished by the skilled nursing facility, or by others under arrangements made by the skilled nursing facility.
* All meals, including special diets furnished by the facility.
* Blood transfusions, other than the first three pints of blood.
* Such other health services as are generally provided by a skilled nursing facility.

What items and services generally are (and are not) covered under Part A (Hospital Insurance) when provided in a participating skilled nursing facility?

The following services are not covered even if provided by the skilled nursing facility:

* Personal convenience (comfort) items that the patient requests, such as a television, radio, or telephone
* Private duty nurses or attendants
* Any extra charges for a private room, unless it is determined to be medically necessary
* Custodial care, including assistance with the activities of daily living (i.e., walking, getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, and feeding), special diets, and supervision of medication that can usually be self-administered, when that is the only care required by the patient
* Physician’s services provided to a patient while the patient is in a skilled nursing facility are covered by Part B (Medical Insurance), not Part A (Hospital Insurance)