

800 East Highway 71
Smithville, Texas 78957

SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

February 24, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Towers Nursing Home Receives Medicare Approval

Towers Nursing Home is excited to announce beginning in March, they will be certified to provide skilled nursing services to patients reimbursed by Medicare.

Dennis Dolgener, Nursing Home Administrator, is pleased to have acquired Medicare certification that will extend to all 114-beds at Towers. But Dolgener was also quick to remind future patients that although Towers is stepping into the future of skilled nursing care, some things will never change. "We will still continue to accept Medicaid and private pay residents," said Dolgener. "But, by gaining Medicare approval, we can further extend our welcome to those residents with short term healthcare needs as well."

Skilled care is healthcare given or supervised to a patient by a licensed skilled nurse or rehabilitation staff when a patient needs the staff member to manage, observe or evaluate their care.

In addition to services currently provided to residents at Towers, new treatment capabilities will come with the approved Medicare certification. Skilled nursing and rehabilitation staff at Towers will include registered nurses, licensed practical and vocational nurses, a full time physical therapist, an occupational therapist and a speech-language pathologist.

Towers has also added an on-site therapy clinic with dedicated exercise room, can issue intravenous injections, and will also provide wound care therapy and tube feedings.

In order to enter Towers as a patient in need of skilled nursing care, two guidelines must be met. The patient must have spent three days in the hospital and be discharged with a medical condition requiring skilled care. Once a patient has been approved to stay at Towers and Medicare is deemed the responsible paying party, the nursing home staff will evaluate the patient's medical condition to determine their length of stay.

Medicare pays 100% of the first 20 days and the patient, pending frequent evaluations by the administrator, Medicare coordinator and social worker, may be allowed to stay the max of 100 days. From day 21 – 100, the patient could pay up to \$99, and all costs incurred after the 100th day will be the full responsibility of the patient.

Upon discharge, the patient is closely evaluated to determine if they are eligible for release to their home or if they need admittance to a private pay bed reimbursed by Medicaid, if they qualify, or private pay.

Towers' is a part of Smithville Hospital Authority's family of services. To schedule a private consultation with Towers' Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, enjoy a personal tour of our facility and meet our residents and staff, call 512-237-4606.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY
512-360-2121