

Some Health Systems Restart Hospital-At-Home As They Await CMS Guidance

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Several health systems are already relaunching hospital-at-home programs tied to CMS waivers that were temporarily restored through Jan. 30 by the government funding deal signed into law yesterday (Nov. 12), even though providers are waiting for CMS to issue guidance around how and whether to resubmit rejected hospital-at-home claims.

“After a temporary pause caused by the government shutdown and the resulting lapse of [CMS’ Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) waivers], we’re thrilled to share that our Acute Hospital at Home program has officially reopened and we’re ready to care for patients once again,” Melissa Frias, executive director of hospital-at-home for Rhode Island’s Kent Hospital, wrote on LinkedIn.

UMass Memorial Health will restart its CMS waiver-enabled hospital-at-home program on Monday, wrote Taki Michaelidis, hospital-at-home medical director for the central Massachusetts health system, on LinkedIn.

Mass General Brigham’s hospital-at-home program will resume normal inpatient operations on Friday, wrote Stephen Dorner, chief of clinical operations & medical affairs for the health system’s Healthcare at Home program, on LinkedIn.

Krista Drobac, founder of Moving Health Home, told *Inside Health Policy* she expects some health systems to relaunch hospital-at-home programs to keep as many inpatient beds open as possible for the upcoming respiratory season.

Drobac said health systems that haven’t yet launched hospital-at-home programs will likely not do so until lawmakers on Capitol Hill enact a long-term extension of AHCAH waivers. The House Ways & Means Committee advanced a five-year extension of AHCAH waivers in September, but it’s unclear what legislative vehicles could make the bill become law.

In the meantime, industry lawyers are waiting for CMS to issue guidance on previously denied AHCAH claims.

On Nov. 6, CMS told hospitals that if they submitted AHCAH claims with dates of service on or after Oct. 1, when the program lapsed, their claims would be returned to them for correction.

CMS also said hospitals could hold onto AHCAH claims or submit them for denial with bill type 110 and condition code 21.

“CMS stated that if Congress were to retroactively extend the AHCAH waivers, the agency would provide future guidance on whether hospitals would need to resubmit AHCAH claims previously submitted for denial. Now that the waiver has been restored, we expect CMS to issue this promised guidance on whether hospitals will need to resubmit AHCAH claims that were denied,” McDermott’s *Regs & Eggs* newsletter on Thursday (Nov. 13) said.

“CMS may also need to issue guidance that officially restores the AHCAH waivers to hospitals that previously had them and clarifies that hospitals can go back to their practice of allowing certain patients to receive services at their homes rather than at the hospital,” the post added.

So far, CMS has said all inpatients served by AHCAH waivers must be discharged or returned to hospitals on Jan. 30, 2026, when Congress’ newly passed waiver extension expires. The agency will accept requests for an AHCAH waiver through Jan. 1, 2026.