# **5 Setting Distinctions:** LTACHs vs. SNFs



While long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs) and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are both potential options for patients discharging from a hospital, they offer very different levels of care. The unique expertise and resources available at LTACHs allow them to improve outcomes for medically complex patients. Below are 5 key differences between LTACH and SNF settings that impact medically complex patient recovery and readmission rates.

## **LTACHs**

Care is directed by physicians who visit patients daily, and multiple medical subspecialists are available for consultation.



**Physicians** 

## **SNFs**

Physicians typically visit weekly or monthly, but not daily, and some subspecialist consultations are available in select centers.

High-acuity care is provided by BLS- and ACLS-certified nurses. Nurses implement and manage IV lines, catheters, and tracheostomy and nasogastric tubes. Nurse-to-patient ratios resemble those in traditional hospitals.



Nurses

BLS-certified nurses monitor and manage IV lines, catheters, and tracheostomy and nasogastric tubes.

Ventilator liberation is a major focus and is led by pulmonologists, respiratory therapists, and rehabilitation specialists.



Ventilator Liberation

Ventilator liberation is rare, and ventilator management is typically led by nurses rather than respiratory therapists.

Patients typically have serious conditions such as respiratory failure, sepsis, traumatic brain injury, or surgical complications with many concurrent illnesses, and require ongoing acute care.



#### Patient Characteristics

Patients tend to have a wide variety of conditions that can be managed by nurses with the goal of restoring functional independence before returning home.

Services such as telemetry, radiology, pharmacy, lab, and dialysis are typically available on-site.



**Ancillary Services** 

Radiology, pharmacy, lab, and dialysis services are accessible off-site.

#### **NEXT LEVEL CARE. NEXT LEVEL RECOVERY.**

Kindred Hospitals provide specialized long-term acute care and rehabilitation for medically complex patients.

Learn more about how Kindred Hospitals can improve outcomes for medically complex patients at **refertokindred.com**.