

# MCG Health Replaces 21 Ventilator-Day Guideline: Your Cheat Sheet to What This Means for Patients

## MCG Health's Revised Clinical Indications for Admission to LTACHs

### WHAT REVISIONS WERE MADE?

In March 2022, MCG Health published new Clinical Indications for Admission to LTACH, replacing the 21 ventilator-day standard with a more clinical guideline - three failed spontaneous breathing trials (SBTs).<sup>1</sup>

### Who is MCG Health?

MCG Health is a healthcare group that publishes guidelines for patient treatment and transition, based on the latest research.

### Why did the guidelines change?

A review of the latest research revealed that SBTs are considered a best practice for evaluating clinical necessity of long-term ventilation, and that delaying discharge of ventilated patients to an LTACH may negatively influence the probability of liberation.<sup>2,3</sup>

### How does this change help ventilated patients?

The revised guidelines promote transferring patients to LTACHs as soon as clinically appropriate, allowing for earlier access to specialized ventilator care that can improve outcomes.

## Unique Aspects of LTACHs Such as Kindred Hospitals That Can Improve Outcomes for Ventilated Patients



### Expertise in ventilator care

- Ventilator-supported patients make up more than 25 percent of LTACH admissions.<sup>4</sup>
- Kindred is pursuing certification from The Joint Commission in Respiratory Failure in all hospitals



### Interdisciplinary care teams

- Teams of pulmonologists, ICU-level nurses, respiratory therapists, and rehabilitation specialists collaborate to develop customized care plans
- At Kindred, these teams meet at the patient's bedside daily to discuss goals and progress



### Specialized rehabilitative care

- Rehabilitation services provided at an LTACH are led by PTs, RTs, OTs and SLPs and are integrated with specialized acute care
- Kindred's Move Early Program incorporates mobilization in the treatment plan as early as possible, even for ventilated patients

### References:

1. Ventilator Management Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH) Guideline (GRG-049). 2022. In General Recovery Care. 26th Edition.
2. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27818331/>

3. <https://bmcpulmed.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12890-021-01454-1>
4. [http://medpac.gov/docs/default-source/reports/mar21\\_medpac\\_report\\_to\\_the\\_congress\\_sec.pdf](http://medpac.gov/docs/default-source/reports/mar21_medpac_report_to_the_congress_sec.pdf)

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