**Discharge Scenarios for Case 2**

A 55-year-old woman is admitted with fever and found to have methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* endocarditis. She is started on IV vancomycin. A PICC line is placed. She lives at home with her husband, who is healthy, and her 32-year-old daughter. On hospital day 6 she is clinically improved, her bacteremia has cleared, and you think she is medically ready to leave the hospital. She will need a total of 6 weeks of IV antibiotics to clear the infection.

Answer these two questions for each of the scenarios below:

1. Can you safely discharge this patient home today?

2. If not, what alternatives do you have?

Scenario 1: The patient has Blue Cross Personal Choice health insurance and a PCP.

Scenario 2: The patient is recently unemployed and has no health insurance and doesn’t qualify for public assistance. She has a PCP she hasn’t seen in a year with whom she wants to follow up.

Scenario 3: The patient is now 65 and has Medicare Part A, but has not purchased Medicare Part B. She does not have a PCP.

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| **What services are covered under Medicare Part A?**  |
| **Services**  | **Benefit**  | **Medicare Pays** |
| Hospital  | First 60 days61st to 90th day91st to 150th dayBeyond 90 days if lifetime reserve days are used  | All but a $1260 deductible per illnessAll but $315 per dayAll but $630 per dayNothing  |
| Unskilled Nursing at Home  | Care that is primarily custodial is not covered  | Nothing  |
| Skilled Nursing Center  | First 20 days21st to 100th dayBeyond 100 days  | AllAll but $157 per dayNothing  |
| Home Health Care  | 100 visits per illness  | 100% for skilled care as per Medicare rules  |
| Hospice  | As long as physician certifies the patient suffers from terminal condition  | 100% for most services, co pays for outpatient pharmaceuticals and coinsurance for inpatient respite care  |