**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 days  61st to 90th day  91st to 150th day  Beyond 90 days if lifetime reserve days are used | All but a $1260 deductible per illness  All but $315 per day  All but $630 per day  Nothing |
| Unskilled Nursing at Home | Care that is primarily custodial is not covered | Nothing |
| Skilled Nursing Center | First 20 days  21st to 100th day  Beyond 100 days | All  All but $157 per day  Nothing |
| 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 |