

CHAPTER 8  
SECTION 5.1

## PRIVATE DUTY NURSING: HOSPITAL WITH SPECIALIZED ICU

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### I. DESCRIPTION

A specialized ICU is a separate ICU maintained for a specific type of medical condition such as respiratory conditions, cardiac surgery, coronary care, burn care, pediatrics or neurosurgery.

### II. POLICY

If a hospital has only a specialized ICU but no ICU level for other medical conditions, the services of a private duty nurse may be covered when an intensive level of skilled nursing care is medically required by the patient and the specialized ICU is not appropriate for the patient's condition.

### III. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. When the hospital has an ICU that is available to all patients whose medical condition requires an intensive level of skilled nursing care, or has a specialized ICU that is appropriate for the patient's condition, benefits are not available for private duty nursing.

B. Private duty nursing is not covered in a hospital with a general ICU, or a specialized ICU which meets the patient's needs, even if the ICU is full or the patient is prevented from using it because of a contagious disease.

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