

**§482.61(c)(1)(ii) Short-term and long range goals;****Interpretive Guidelines §482.61(c)(1)(ii)**

Based on the problems identified for treatment, short-term and long-range goals are developed. Whether the use of short-term or a combination of short-term and long-range goals is appropriate is dependent on the length of hospital stay.

Short-term and long-range goals include specific dates for expected achievement. As goals are achieved, the treatment plan should be revised. When a goal is modified, changed or discontinued without achievement, the plan should be reviewed for relevancy, and updated as needed.

In crisis intervention and short-term treatment there may be only one timeframe for treatment goals. As the length of hospital stay increases (often because of the long-term chronic nature of the patient's illness), both long-range and short-term goals are needed.

The long-range goal is achieved through the development of a series of short-term goals, i.e., smaller, logical sequential steps which will result in reaching the long-range goal. Both the short-term and long-range goals must be stated as expected behavioral outcomes for the patient. Goals must be related to the problems identified for treatment. Goals must be written as observable, measurable patient behaviors to be achieved. Discharge criteria may be included as long-range goals.

**Survey Procedures §482.61(c)(1)(ii)**

How do treatment plan goals relate to the problems being treated?

Do goals indicate the outcomes to be achieved by the patient?

Are the goals written in a way that allow changes in the patient's behavior to be measured?

If not apparent, what criteria do staff use to measure success?

How relevant are the treatment plan goals to the patient's condition?

