

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

**CHAPTER:** 2  
**SECTION:** 13.8  
**TITLE:** PRIVATE DUTY NURSING: HOSPITAL WITH SPECIALIZED  
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)

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**AUTHORITY:** 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

**RELATED AUTHORITY:** 32 CFR 199.4(c)(3)(xii)

**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL:** Chapter 8, Section 5.1

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

January 23, 1984

### II. 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.

### III. 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 with an intensive level of skilled nursing care if medically required by the patient and the specialized ICU is not appropriate for the patient's condition.

### IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. When the hospital has an ICU which is available to all patients whose medical condition requires an intensive level of skilled nursing care, or has a specialized ICU which is appropriate for the patient's condition, no benefits are 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.

**\*END OF POLICY\***