Your upcoming stay in a skilled nursing facility

Why do I need a stay in a skilled nursing facility?
Your doctor has recommended you be admitted to a skilled nursing facility (SNF) following your hospital stay.

Who is in charge of my stay in the skilled nursing facility?
Since you are a Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) patient, a physician from our Geriatric Medicine Department will oversee your care at the SNF. We collaborate closely with the SNF team, your primary care physician, and (in the case of a recent operation) your surgeon to provide coordinated, comprehensive medical care to you until you are discharged.

Will I see my own doctor during my stay in the skilled nursing facility?
In some cases, your primary care physician may choose to oversee your care in the SNF. More often, a PAMF geriatric-medicine provider will oversee your care. Our department comprises board-certified geriatricians, internal-medicine physicians, as well as physician assistants.

What is geriatric medicine?
Geriatric medicine is a medical subspecialty dedicated to promoting the health, independence and quality of life of older people.

Physicians specializing in geriatric medicine, called “geriatricians,” complete residency training in internal medicine or family medicine, and then fellowship training in geriatric medicine. The American Board of Internal Medicine provides board certification to geriatricians. Geriatricians have specialized expertise in caring for patients in the SNF. They provide on-site care during your SNF stay.

When should I expect to see the PAMF geriatric medicine providers during my stay?
A physician from our Geriatric Medicine Department is responsible for care at your designated SNF during designated hours. An on-call physician is available to help the SNF team care for you during evening and weekend hours.

After you are admitted, a physician from our Geriatric Medicine Department coordinates your care with the SNF team and establishes goals for your stay. This geriatrician will continue to follow your progress during your stay, and coordinate your eventual discharge from the facility.

The Department of Geriatric Medicine physician in charge of my care is:

How can I learn more about geriatric medicine or care in nursing facilities?
American Geriatric Society: http://www.americangeriatrics.org/
Medicare’s Nursing Home Overview: http://www.medicare.gov/Nursing/Overview.asp