Reduces 30-Day Readmission Rates 30%

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Medicare has been penalizing hospitals for higher than average 30-day readmissions of high-cost diagnoses since October 2012, and every healthcare network has endeavored to become national leaders in reducing readmissions. Specific diagnoses and procedures with 3% reduction in reimbursement from 2015 include heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, COPD, hip replacements, and knee replacements. Heart failure accounts for the largest re-hospitalization diagnosis. In February, the Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network released a study contracted by CMS to investigate the effects of home health on hospital 30-day readmission rates. Surprisingly, this simple study may be the first of its kind. While there are numerous studies demonstrating how specific care paths or specific in-home care elements can reduce readmissions (e.g. dyad interventions for stroke survivors, nutritional intervention, A1c management, home nursing following coronary artery bypass graft, etc.), this is the first study we have ever seen or ever been able to find that simply measures the effect of normal Medicare home health in general on 30-day readmission rates.

Researchers accessed Medicare billing data for every hospital discharge in New Jersey in 2014 and followed 36,694 of those patients who were referred for home health. Among those patients, roughly 2/3 received home health and 1/3 did not. Among Medicare beneficiaries who received a home health referral but did not receive home health, the 30-day readmission rate was 24.5%. The implication here is that when Medicare beneficiaries are discharged from the hospital and are homebound, prescribing home health could reduce hospital readmission rates by 30%.

Thanks to this large but simple study, we now have evidence that, across all diagnoses, all patient groups, and all procedures, normal home health has the general effect of reducing readmissions by a substantial margin. Five Star Home Health in particular can extend this protective effect to your patients. Over and above usual home health outcomes, risk-adjusted data from Medicare shows that the patients you refer to Five Star prove 20% less likely to require urgent care or unplanned emergency department care – compared to other home health agencies. In fact, Medicare's Home Health Compare shows Five Star leading California and the nation in 100% of measures related to preventing patient harm.

A Particularly Qualified Nursing Team

When you refer to Five Star Home Health, you give your patients access to an unusually qualified nursing team with many years of experience each and a passion for caring. Our nursing team credentials include:

- Home Infusion Certification
- Wound Care Certification
- Psychiatric Nursing
- Certified ICD-10 Specialist
- NPWT Qualified
- and more

Please tell your patients about Five Star Home Health
Passion for Care. Compassion for People.
References:


