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Closing the Door to Inpatient Readmission
High quality care in the SNF

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The hospital: Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) Cycle



golden
living center
living community
north of Weyzata & Redstone
15408 Weyzata Boulevard

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The hospital: SNF Cycle (continued)

- Incomplete discharge summary
- Problem focused vs. patient focused care
- Medication reconciliation
- Unnecessary procedures
- Inattention to chronic care needs
- Premature discharge
- Psychosis
- Poor family communication
- Advance care planning
- Acute change in condition: Recognition and assessment
- Poor communication
- Interdisciplinary team collaboration
- Appropriate plan of care/monitoring
- Stakeholder alignment
- Lack of contingency planning
- Execution/implementation of plan
- Multiple consultants
- Hospitalist vs. primary care provider
- Nosocomial infections/complications
- Medical Errors
- Ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- 911 reflex
- Regulatory concerns
- "When in doubt..."
- Inadequate clinical professional engagement



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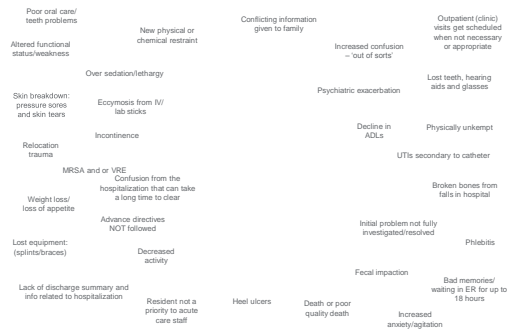
Scope of the problem

- More than 20% of all Medicare beneficiaries re-hospitalized within 30 days
- 90% unplanned
- Cost to Medicare = \$17.4 billion
- 40% of Medicare beneficiaries discharged to receive post acute care (SNF, IRH, home health)
- Half of the above enter a nursing home
- 23.5% re-hospitalization rate from SNFs
- Even higher (26%) for those who previously resided in nursing home
- Medicare costs \$4.34 billion
- High proportion are avoidable
 - Considerable geographic variation
 - High prevalence of preventable conditions
- Correlated with negative health outcomes, e.g., delirium, functional decline



Mir et al. "The Reversing Cost of Re-hospitalization from Skilled Nursing Facilities" Health Affairs 20, No 1, 2001: 37-64.
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What can happen to your hospitalized residents



Exercise 14B
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Case #1

- 89-year-old female with dementia, HTN, CKD, eats independently but requires assistance with all other ADLs.
- Hospitalized nine days ago with acute cardiac ischemia, change in level of consciousness, and suspected aspiration pneumonia.
- After seven days in acute care returned to SNF with significant functional decline and increased confusion. Family was informed of sequence of events. Patients was DNR/DNI.
- 48 hours later at 2 a.m., she developed tachypnea and O2 sat 87% on 2L/min. Staff concerned about recurrent cardiac event. Covering physician unfamiliar with case ordered nurse to call 911.
- Patient re-hospitalized with suspected aspiration pneumonia, given supportive care.



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Why do admissions/readmissions occur?

- Fundamental system issues related to transitions
- Physician presence in SNFs and coverage issues
- SNF technical capabilities
- ACP/Family dynamics
- Staffing
- Education/training in SNFs
- Regulatory environment
- Patient mix
- Fragmentation in system/information systems



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Who's at risk?

- Age/demographics
- Medical conditions: CHF, pneumonia, COPD, psychosis, GI issues
- Surgical procedures: Cardiac stent placement, hip/knee surgery, vascular surgery, bowel surgery
- Dialysis
- Previous re-hospitalization
- Longer index hospitalization
- SNF discharge: compare to community or IRF



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Rehospitalization

Highest rates of rehospitalization and most frequent reasons for rehospitalization, according to condition at index discharge

Table 1. Highest Rates of Rehospitalization and Most Frequent Reasons for Rehospitalization, According to Condition at Index Discharge

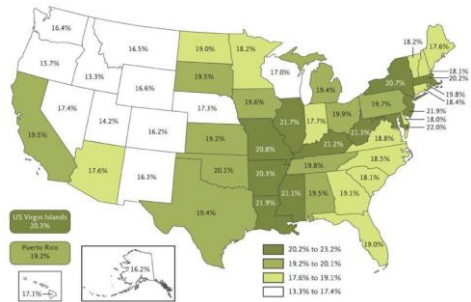
Condition at Index Discharge	SNF Rehospitalization Rate	Rehospitalization Rate	Most Frequent Reason for Rehospitalization	SNF Most Frequent Reason for Rehospitalization	Most Frequent Reason for Rehospitalization	SNF Most Frequent Reason for Rehospitalization
Medial						
All	15.8	17.6	Heart failure (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)
Heart failure	38.9	18	Heart failure (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)
Phychem	28.1	6.3	Phychem (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)
GI problems	19.6	4.8	GI problems (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)
Phychem	24.4	3.3	Phychem (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)
GI problems	18.1	3.1	GI problems (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)
Legisl						
All	15.6	16.4	Heart failure (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)
Stroke (not transient)	24.1	1.8	Stroke (not transient) (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)
Heart failure (not acute)	8.5	1.9	Heart failure (not acute) (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)
Other medical surgery	13.4	1.4	Other medical surgery (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)	Heart failure (2.0)
Heart failure (acute)	18.6	1.8	Heart failure (acute) (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)
Other top 5 heart surgery	17.9	8.8	Heart failure (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)	Phychem (2.0)	GI problems (2.0)

Where do they live?

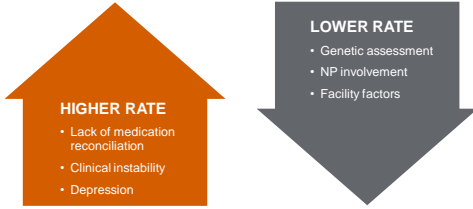
- Pre-hospital living situation
 - Impact of nursing home vs. community setting prior to the post hospital SNF admission
 - Rate higher for those previously in NH
- Differences between short term rehab or medically complex and permanent NH residents
- Readmit rates?
 - What is scope of problem
- Financial implications for health system



Rates of rehospitalization within 30 days after hospital DC



SNF hospital readmission levers



All readmissions not created equal



Potentially preventable readmissions (PPR)

- Same Medicare payment diagnostic category
- Medical vs. surgical readmission (MedPAC)
- Condition specific (78% — can be managed in SNF)
 - CHF
 - Respiratory infection
 - UTI
 - Sepsis
 - Electrolyte imbalance
- Evercare TAP criteria
 - Later slides



Other factors that drive readmissions

- System drivers, e.g. SNFs lack incentive to coordinate care
- Medicaid is typically the primary payer so SNFs have incentive to shift costs to Medicare or Medicaid payment policies may be driving care process failures (Medicaid payment levels and bed-hold rates are factors)
- Transformation of nursing homes from long term to post acute
- Consider LOS in SNF — the longer one stays the more the SNF is accountable
- Provider practice patterns, willingness to use hospice
- FFS rewards more care rather than coordination and quality



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Case #2

- 78-year-old male, hospitalized two weeks earlier with COPD exacerbation, was discovered to have urinary retention and BPH. Had indwelling urinary catheter x 4 days, treated with IV steroids, nebs, and Abx. Started on alpha blocker and returned to SNF.
- Experienced weakness, fatigue, decreased appetite. C/o not feeling well, temp 99.8 other VS WNL. Several days ago was unable to participate in activities; stayed in bed.
- Physician called and discontinued alpha blocker, slowed steroid taper. Yesterday patient had temp 100.3.
- This morning developed hypotension, HR 119, unable to obtain O2 sat.
- Sent to ER where found to have pyuria, sepsis, and dehydration. Admitted to ICU for further care.



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Why should we care?

- PPACA
- HCERA
- Public reporting for hospitals
- Demonstrations and pilots
- Quality of Care
- Patient outcomes
- Payment system reform
 - Denials for 30 day same diagnosis
 - Med-PAC recommends that Medicare reduce payment to hospitals with relatively high risk-adjusted readmission rates for select conditions.
 - RHQDAPU Program
 - Bundled payments



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Readmission reduction strategies

- Service delivery reform
- Financing reform
- Medicare and Medicaid integrated service and financing reform



Some elements of care common to most transitions models

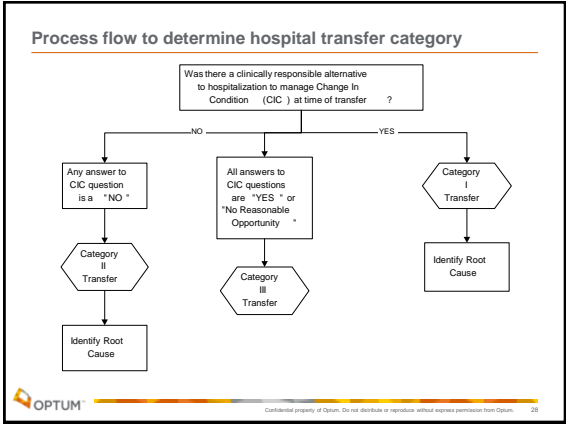
- Medication management/reconciliation
- Assessing patient's understanding/ability to follow care plan
- Discharge support
- Coaching for primary care physician visit
- Use of home visits
- Screening for cognitive ability
- Use of centralized health record
- Involving family and other caregivers
- Arranging community-based support services



Shoring up SNF capabilities

- IV fluids
- Hypodermoclysis
- Labs/diagnostics
- Pharmacy
- Palliative care and hospice availability





TAP categories

I Available Hospital Transfer	II Unavoidable But Potentially Preventable Hospital Transfer	III Appropriate Hospital Admission
<p>Clinically responsible alternative to hospitalization exists at time of transfer</p> <p>Transferred against member/ family representative wishes and/or expressed goals of care as documented in the medical record</p> <p>Services needed to evaluate and safely treat the medical condition are available on the NF or the time the problem was recognized</p> <p>Elective Outpatient Procedure</p>	<p>Clinically responsible alternative to hospitalization may not exist at the time of transfer, however, evaluation/management of change in condition (CIC) may be incomplete.</p> <p>Important elements of evaluation/management of change in condition include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NF staff recognition, assessment, and monitoring of CIC Prompt notification of primary and/or on-call NP/PA Appropriate assessment by NP/PA between identification of CIC and transfer NP/PA contact with CSM prior to transfer NP/PCP collaboration and discussion of options Development of appropriate diagnostic/treatment/monitoring plan by FCT Family NP contact by NP/PA Review of ACP/goals of care Agreement of all stakeholders (NP/PA/PCP/NF staff/Family) to diagnostic/treatment/monitoring plan and proposed Ds Development of contingency plan for likely clinical scenarios/high probability events Agreement of all stakeholders (NP/PA/PCP/NF staff/Family) to contingency plan Execution of appropriate diagnostic/treatment/monitoring plan 	<p>Clinically responsible alternative to hospitalization does not exist at the time of transfer, and all elements of evaluation/management of change in condition are either complete or there was no reasonable opportunity (NRO) or ability to effectively complete them.</p> <p>Inpatient care is consistent with the member/family representative wishes and/or expressed goals of care as documented in the medical record.</p> <p>Inpatient based treatment was needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent or decrease function Optimize pain control Provide surgery Inpatient diagnostics

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Reduction in unnecessary hospitalizations

The University of Minnesota School of Public Health found that the incidence of hospitalizations among nursing home populations was twice as high in control residents as in Evercare residents.



Evercare

Members in the control group were also twice as likely to go to the emergency room than Evercare members.

Evercare had half the hospitalizations compared to fee-for-service Medicare (Control 1 and 2).

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Project RED (re-engineered discharge)

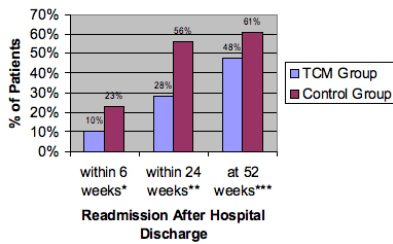
- Discharge Advocate to perform:
 - Education regarding disease and meds
 - Preparation and reinforcement of after hospital care plan
 - Review procedure for handling unanticipated problems
 - Transmission of written plan to care providers
- Nurse avatar used successfully as patient advocate alongside Discharge Advocate
- Initial research shows 30% reduced likelihood of re-hospitalization within 30 days
- More than 50% of discharged patients had medication problem requiring corrective action post discharge
- 91% of receiving physicians had discharge summary within 24 hours of discharge
- Savings of \$380 per patient (includes cost of nursing time)

Transitional Care Model

- Advance Practice RNs: Transition Nurse managers
- Comprehensive discharge planning and home visits
- Active engagement/support of families and caregivers
- Collaboration with physicians

Transitional Care model

TCM's Impact on Hospital Readmission Rates



Conclusions

- SNFs need to improve technical capabilities, staff training and education to prevent readmissions
- We need to continue to understand who is at highest risk for re-hospitalization
- Early recognition of decline/early intervention
- Contingency planning
- Family communication/involvement/support
- Advance Care Planning is critical
- Many tools/resources available
- No excuses!



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Thank you.
Any questions?

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