

Avoidable Hospital Readmissions

Rank: 6 (medium provider adoption)

Survey Responses- Hospitals: 15

Medical Groups: 12

Health Plans: 7

Adopted July 2014 | 29 months from adoption to survey

Read the Report and Recommendations here: www.breecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/Readmissions-Report-FINAL-14-0730.pdf

Roadmap to Implementation

Current State	Transition Activities	Ideal State and Sustainability
Hospitals, Clinics, and Individual Clinicians		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients are routinely readmitted to a hospital following discharge • There is no active monitoring of hospital readmissions • There are no actions or plans for reducing readmissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital participates in a hospital readmission collaborative, i.e. Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) or through Qualis Health • The WSHA Care Transitions Toolkit is adopted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient risk is assessed for adverse event and readmission post-discharge • Primary care providers are notified and follow-up occurs post-discharge • Patient medications are properly managed post-discharge • Communication is effective when a patient is transferred to another facility
Health Plans		
		Reimbursements are aligned with reducing readmissions

Background

Hospital readmissions have received significant attention since Medicare applied payment penalties for cases where patients are re-admitted within 30 days of a previous discharge, a program that began in 2012. This has put more attention on transitions of care after being released from a hospital, and how coordination takes place between primary and long-term care providers. Bree Collaborative recommendations for reducing readmissions focus on participation in collaborative programs offered by the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) and Qualis Health, use of the WSHA Care Transitions Toolkit, and establishment of comparative, hospital-specific performance measures.

Read the full Roadmap here: www.breecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/Bree-Implementation-Roadmap-Final-17-04.pdf

Implementation Survey Results

Bree Collaborative recommendations scoring lowest on the implementation survey for this topic for hospitals and medical groups include:

- Primary care providers have a process for providing necessary follow-up visits for discharged hospital patients who do not currently have an established primary care provider
- There is participation in a hospital readmission collaborative recognized by WSHA or Qualis Health

Next Steps

- **Working with existing, accepted programs.** A significant number of responding hospitals mentioned using the WSHA Care Transitions Toolkit. Bree Collaborative recommendations also included participation in a collaborative improvement program, such as the program run by WSHA and Qualis. The two organizations sponsor *Safe Tables* training sessions and webinars focused on readmissions. Some hospitals indicated that they intend to join, while others made no mention of participating. Even so, hospitals mentioned working on implementing the WSHA Toolkit on their own, particularly focusing on communication with transitional care facilities and primary care doctors who will follow-up with patients. These efforts should be continued.
- **Financial incentives.** Payment penalties for avoidable readmissions, along with public reporting of readmission rates provide incentives for improvement. Most health plans in our survey include financial penalties for preventable hospital readmission, often within 30 days of discharge. These policies provide incentive for hospitals to continue work on measuring and improving.
- **Measurement.** The Washington State Hospital Association, the Washington Health Alliance, and Qualis Health publishing hospital readmission rates that are available to the public.
 - See Washington Health Alliance hospital readmission rates:
<http://wahealthalliance.org/alliance-reports-websites/alliance-reports/hospital-readmissions>
 - See Qualis Health hospital readmission rates:
www.medicare.qualishealth.org/resources/community-readmissions
 - See Washington Hospital Association hospital readmission rates:
<http://wahospitalquality.org/compare/category/general-other-readmissions>