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Your checklist for reducing hospital readmissions

The readmissions challenge

Under the **Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program** and other fee-for-performance programs, providers could miss out on reimbursements if patients are readmitted within a certain number of days of leaving the hospital. Readmissions are thought to cost providers around **$41 billion** annually in increased expenses, underpayments and uncompensated care. As a common quality indicator, readmission rates also influence payer and patient decisions, which can affect profitability.

30 days

A 2016 study reported that more than one fifth of patients discharged from post-acute care facilities were readmitted within 30 days

The impact of readmissions

- Avoidable utilization
- Poor patient outcomes
- Impact on quality scores
- Increased costs
- Medicare readmission penalties

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Here are 5 effective ways to reduce hospital readmissions:

1. Tackle social determinants of health

Get a 360-degree view of patients to address potential barriers that prevent them from engaging in their own healthcare. Non-medical consumer data can help you flag patients that may have barriers to care, like lack of transportation or food insecurity, as well as which patients are at the greatest risk of readmission. When you know the social and economic barriers to care, you can offer tailored support to help patients attend appointments and adhere to their care plan.

2. Automate information-sharing

Ensure everyone involved in your patient's care has access to timely and reliable information about their post-discharge care plan, medications and test results. A secure messaging platform that is vendor-agnostic and allows for data exchange between health information systems, such as Care Coordination Manager, keeps everyone in the loop so the patient is supported to recover without any unnecessary trips to the Emergency Department (ED).

3. Encourage patients to attend wellness checks

Prevention is better than cure. Wellness checks allow medical problems to be diagnosed earlier, but some patients struggle to attend. Consumer data helps you learn about your patients' behavior and preferences, so you can build an engagement strategy tailored to their needs. For example, are they among the 3.6 million Americans who miss medical appointments due to lack of transportation? Perhaps you can point them towards your hospital's free bus service.

4. Make it easy for patients to schedule appointments

Improve access to care and make it easy and convenient for patients to schedule appointments. This allows patients to schedule care on their terms and will likely avoid complications down the road. For example a data-driven appointment scheduler, like Patient Schedule makes scheduling appointments convenient and easy for patients and saves your staff time too.

5. Adopt technology

For example, USMD WellMed Health System adopted technology that used real-time alerts of patient activity including admissions, discharges, and ED visits. These insights enabled this client to proactively manage active episodes of care, optimizing the setting and deliver of care for the patient's specific needs.

$41 billion

Annual costs to providers as the result of readmissions.

Learn more about how data insights and technology can help reduce your readmission rates.

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