

Health Information Technology for Post-Acute Care Providers

Special Innovation Project Brief

Project purpose

Transform fragmented medication reconciliation processes and facilitate stronger care transition communication across health care settings through the electronic exchange of health information. This means for:

- Patients and nursing home residents: improved medication safety and fewer unnecessary hospital readmissions
- Health care system: reduced medical costs through efficiency and appropriate care

Key accomplishment

The project team conducted *some of the first* live exchanges of health information across health care settings in Minnesota focusing on transitions of care and medication management.

Deliverables

- Conduct an environmental scan across health care settings to assess health information exchange (HIE) readiness
- Create a care coordination toolkit
- Map and develop care transitions processes for all participating organizations
- Map and advance medication reconciliation processes for all participating organizations
- Identify standardized patient assessment content for continuity of care documentation
- Change workflow processes so medication list screenings occur prior to discharge of patient from hospital



Project results

The nationally replicable, 18-month special innovation project, funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), harnessed health IT to expedite the implementation of health care quality improvement measures in Minnesota's health care system.

Successfully tested health information exchange tests between care settings, including 10 skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), three hospitals, and two pharmacies across urban and rural communities.

Successful Test Exchanges

Direction of Transfer	Number of exchanges
SNF to hospital	42
Hospital to SNF	12
Hospital to pharmacy	2

Future opportunities

- Increase understanding of the value of true interoperability between health care settings
- Help SNFs adopt and optimize EHRs
- Promote the development of practical exchange mechanisms



Participants

Hospitals

- Fairview Lakes Hospital
- Fairview Ridges Hospital
- Fairview Southdale Hospital

Skilled nursing facilities

- Augustana Health Care Center of Minneapolis
- Benedictine Health Center at Innsbruck
- Birchwood Health Care Center
- The Colony of Eden Prairie
- Ebenezer Ridges Care Center
- Ecumen of North Branch
- Golden LivingCenter Rush City
- Margaret S. Parmly Residence
- Martin Luther Care Center
- St. Gertrude's Health and Rehabilitation Center

Pharmacies

- Fairview Long Term Care Pharmacy
- Thrifty White Pharmacy

Project governance

- Aging Services of Minnesota
- Care Providers of Minnesota
- Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC)
- LeadingAge/Center for Aging Services Technology
- Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS)
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Hospital Association



This material was prepared by Stratis Health, the Minnesota Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The materials do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.
10SOW-MN-SIP HIT-14-08 073114