

Ohio's Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Admissions among Nursing Facility Residents

Background: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) recently announced a funding opportunity to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility (NF) Residents.

Under this initiative, CMS will select organizations that test a series of evidence-based clinical interventions:

NF requirement: the participating NF must

- have an average census of 100 or more
- be in good standing (ODH)
- be OUTSIDE of the ICDS areas

Primary Target Populations: fee-for-service Medicare-Medicaid long-stay enrollees in NF. Long stay residents are who reside in a nursing facility for 100 days or more or are identified on the Minimum Data Set assessment as residents expect to remain in the facility

Primary Goals

- Reduce the frequency of avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions;
- Improve resident health outcomes;
- Improve the process of transitioning between inpatient hospitals & nursing facilities;
- Reduce overall health care spending without restricting access to care or choice of providers.

The Care Model requires:

- Hire staff who maintain a physical presence on site at NFs & partner with NF staff to implement preventive services (cannot bill separately) using evidence-based tools and processes
- Work in cooperation with existing providers;
- Facilitate residents' transitions to & from inpatient hospitals and nursing facilities;
- Provide support for improved communication and coordination among existing providers; and
- Coordinate and improve management and monitoring of prescription drugs, including psychotropic drugs.

In response to this Initiative, Ohio will submit a single, statewide proposal for participation. Ben Rose will do the grant writing and submission on behalf of the state. We anticipate Regional Alliances related to existing of NFs with biggest interest and opportunities for improvement. Permedion will be responsible for the implementation and QI processes. Medicaid will assist with all of the above, as well as the data and evaluation components.

Partners: Ohio Medicaid established partnership with key Ohio geriatric care and provider associations, consumer and family advocates, Area Offices on Aging, care management and quality improvement entities, Advance Practice Nurse entities, key health systems and eligible NF facilities to develop this Initiative. Ohio Medicaid, Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC), Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging (BRI) and Permedion formed the grant writing team, while BRI served as a Lead Agency to submit Ohio's application.

Application is due June 14, 2012.