

Press Release



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Christian Health Care Center Proactive in Reducing Readmissions to Acute Care Hospitals from Post-acute Care Unit

WYCKOFF, NJ ... The clinical team at Christian Health Care Center (CHCC) in Wyckoff is being very proactive in reducing readmission to acute-care hospitals from The David F. Bolger Post-acute Care Unit at CHCC. Two years before the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2012, the clinical team started to review the proposed law for its potential impact on CHCC services.

“A portion of the act addressed reducing readmissions to acute-care hospitals. We decided to begin preparations for if and when it would encompass post-acute care and long-term care facilities as well,” said Elisabeth Micich Otero, RN-BCC, MSN, Quality Manager of CHCC’s Long-term Care Division.

A team was charged with the task of tracking and trending data for patients at The David F. Bolger Post-acute Care Unit. Specifically, information was collected on individuals who were readmitted to acute-care hospitals. The information was then used as evidence to revise practice protocols, refine system processes, enhance communication

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within the interdisciplinary care team, and develop education programs to support staff needs. The goal is to manage conditions here in the PACU, when possible, instead of automatically transferring them to the acute-care hospital.

“We are trying to modify what used to be a fairly routine process, and that was to send the patient or resident to the Emergency Department to be evaluated for a change in condition,” said Mrs. Otero. “We are now examining each situation more carefully to determine if there is anything we can do to help keep the patient in a familiar environment. When a patient or resident’s care needs exceeds what we can treat in this setting, a transfer to a higher level of care is justified. A new process for 2013 includes benchmarking readmissions data to support the goal of staying at or below state and national thresholds.”

“The team’s success,” Mrs. Otero said, “is attributed to its ability to carefully examine opportunities to improve, identify innovative ways to problem-solve, and a firm commitment of our mission to provide excellent care and outcomes for the patients and residents we serve.”

CHCC provides a broad continuum of high-quality, compassionate care, offering superior mental-health, elder-care, residential living, and rehabilitation services. As a non-profit organization, we deliver care to our community based upon the Christian principles on which we were founded more than a century ago.

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