

Care Transitions Initiative



Each year, nearly one in five Medicare patients is readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of discharge. Many of these readmissions are preventable and needlessly affect patients' quality of life, as well as burden our health care delivery system. By standardizing the provision of care to patients within and across care settings, and engaging patients and their families as active care partners, it is possible to reduce unnecessary hospital readmissions.

Over five years ago, Qualidigm and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) launched a two-pronged Heart Failure Readmission Initiative to decrease preventable hospital readmissions for patients with heart failure.

CHA led the collaborative quality improvement activities with 24 participating hospitals. Qualidigm developed, convened and facilitated the complementary "Communities of Care" initiative. A "Community of Care" includes a hospital(s) and their nursing facilities, home health agencies, physicians, and community-based organizations with which they share patients. Under Qualidigm's leadership, 15 volunteer "Communities" were formed to improve transitions between settings of care.

In 2012, this collaboration was renamed the Care Transitions Initiative and broadened to address preventable hospitalizations of all patients across Connecticut.

Qualidigm has continued to support existing and new communities with education and technical assistance on evidence-based quality improvement strategies in both one-on-one and group settings. Highlighted strategies include:

- use of data to identify opportunities for improvement
- enhanced communication between care settings
- timely post hospitalization physician visits
- standardized patient/family education
- emergency care plans
- medication reconciliation
- palliative and hospice care
- post-acute care planning
- emphasis on social determinants of health
- adverse drug events

The strategies that are chosen are based on the specific needs of each community. Best practices are shared via a series of linked, interactive workshops, intervening phone calls, and online resources.

Who We Are

Qualidigm is a mission-driven healthcare consulting company that provides innovative and scientifically-based solutions to transform care and improve care delivery and patient outcomes. With nearly 200 peer-reviewed articles published, Qualidigm is recognized among the healthcare provider network as a facilitator and leader in performing peer-reviewed research, providing evidence-based education, and implementing learning sessions that foster collaboration and accelerate change.

Our professional staff has expertise in clinical medicine, quality improvement, patient safety, public health, patient-centered medical home (PCMH), care coordination, utilization review, data evaluation and analysis and patient/provider education. The staff includes Registered Nurses, Physicians, Social Workers, and many other staff with advanced degrees, e.g., PhDs, MAs, and MBAs.

Qualidigm is part of a team that is serving as the Medicare Quality Innovation-Network Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for New England. Previously, Qualidigm served as the Medicare QIO for the State of Connecticut charged with protecting the rights of Medicare beneficiaries and improving the safety and quality of care they receive.

We serve a diverse group of healthcare stakeholders in government, industry, and clinical practice including academic institutions, national and international healthcare consulting firms, local and national foundations, healthcare providers in all settings, payers and purchasers.

Learn More About Qualidigm's Care Transitions Initiative

The Care Transitions Initiative was developed to support health care professionals across the continuum who are committed to improving the transitions of patients between care settings, thereby decreasing preventable readmissions.

For more information on how Qualidigm can assist you with building a community of care within your network of health care providers, please contact:

Anne Elwell, RN, MPH
Principal & Vice President, Community Relations
aelwell@qualidigm.org
860.632.6322

Our Mission

Improving the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of healthcare through transformational change.