

Reducing Length of Stay

Hospitals no longer have the luxury of addressing all of a particular patient's medical problems and allowing patients to become completely well prior to discharge. Furthermore, adverse events increase with increasing length of stay. Some of these adverse events include:

- Hospital-acquired infections
- Falls
- Adverse drug reactions
- Medication errors

Clark Memorial Hospital continues to promote multiple initiatives to reduce length of stay. The Director and Manager of Care Coordination and two members of the Senior Team round twice weekly with care coordinators on patients who have been hospitalized for six days or longer in an attempt to assist with expediting safe discharges. Physicians are reminded in a variety of ways about the importance of length of stay reduction and assistance is provided to them as needed.

Through these efforts, we have reduced our Medicare length of stay from 4.1 days in 2010 to 3.8 days in 2013.