

Reducing Readmissions

Many factors contribute to readmissions, including:

- Failure to actively involve patients and families in assessing needs
- Missed opportunities with discharge planning
- Missed opportunities for coordination with primary care physicians
- Unreliable medication management
- Unreliable identification of need for and/or referral to services
- Lack of coordinated care
- Patient and/or family lack of understanding of care needs
- Lack of follow-up visit or visit too long after hospitalization
- Poor understanding of end of life issues

Some studies have determined that as many as 20% of readmissions are clearly preventable and almost 20% of Medicare beneficiaries who leave the hospital are readmitted within thirty days at a cost of \$ 15 billion per year.

Clark Memorial Hospital is actively working to reduce readmissions. Many team members are involved in various initiatives to accomplish this and we are involving post-acute care partners such as nursing homes and home health companies as well.

It is our goal to reduce readmissions by 20% this year.