



News Release

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Gerber Memorial Health Services Among Those Chosen in National Project to Reduce "Rehospitalizations"

FREMONT, Mich. — Gerber Memorial Health Services has been selected to participate in a three-state project that will seek to reduce the number of people who must be readmitted to the hospital for clinical reasons related to the initial hospitalization.

The project targets unplanned, related "rehospitalizations," which are the admission of people who – after a hospitalization - return to the hospital for a related reason within 30 days. The pilot project, named **STate Action on Avoidable Rehospitalizations (STAAR)**, seeks to reduce - by 30 percent - the number of patients being hospitalized again while increasing patient and family satisfaction with transitions and coordination of care.

Hospitals in Michigan, Washington and Massachusetts are participating in the STAAR project and Michigan's efforts are being coordinated by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality and MPRO (Michigan's Quality Improvement Organization). Technical assistance is being provided by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), whose efforts are supported by a grant from The Commonwealth Fund.

"Gerber Memorial Health Services (GMHS) is honored to participate in this initiative to improve patient care across the health care continuum throughout Newaygo County," said Jan Stone, Executive Director of Integrated Care. "We are committed to the highest quality of care at GMHS and to pursuing innovative efforts that lead to the best outcomes for our patients. We will also continue to demonstrate effective coordination with our service partners throughout the Newaygo County community."

Ten independent Michigan hospitals and select hospitals within five Michigan hospital systems have been chosen to participate in a three-state health care collaborative to reduce hospital readmissions. Those selected include:

Health Systems

— MORE —

Detroit Medical Center

MidMichigan Health

Spectrum Health System

St. John Health System

University of Michigan Hospitals & Health Centers, Ann Arbor

Individual Hospitals

Allegiance Health

Battle Creek Health System

Botsford Hospital

Charlevoix Area Hospital

Crittenton Hospital Medical Center

Gerber Memorial Health Services

Henry Ford Hospital,

Mecosta County Medical Center

Pennock Health Services

Portage Health

Specifically, the project aims to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations by improving patient care transitions (the process of moving a patient from the hospital setting to home care or another health care setting) through enhanced patient communication and timely follow-ups after hospital discharge.

“Michigan hospitals realize that the recovery process has only just begun when patients leave our facilities and return to their lives,” said MHA President Spencer Johnson. “How patients transition from hospital care to their home or long-term-care facilities is key to the effectiveness of their treatment. By identifying and working to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations, Michigan hospitals will benefit not only our patients and communities, but other states will be able to learn from this initiative.”

The pilot project hospitals have pledged to commit significant staff time, resources and leadership at all levels of their organization to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations. Each hospital will focus on achieving:

- enhanced assessment of post-discharge needs
- enhanced teaching and learning for patients by the acute-care team
- enhanced communication at discharge between the hospital and the provider assuming care for the patient
- timely follow-up after hospital discharge

In addition, hospitals will form transition teams who will develop processes to reduce hospital readmissions. Transition teams will be comprised of participating hospitals and representatives from other health care settings, as well as community groups, patients and caregivers.

