Addressing Gaps in the Patient Discharge Process:

Opportunities to Improve Hospital Service Availability and Patient Outcomes in the UK



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A Universal Issue

Virtually every county in the world is faced with caring for higher numbers of elderly, chronically-ill and those with growing, unmet social needs that are placing unprecedented strain on our health care systems.



Aging Populations



Increasing Numbers with Chronic Illnesses



Social and Economic Vulnerabilities



Lack of Care Coordination and Post-acute Care Continuity

Aging Populations

Virtually every county in the world is faced with caring for higher numbers of elderly, chronically-ill and those with growing, unmet social needs that are placing unprecedented strain on our health care systems.

Percentage of Population Age 65 and Older

Source: OECD 2016



Actual and Projected Aging of The Global Population

(Numbers Aged 60 Years or Older)



The Chronically III

Number of Adults Living with One or More Chronic Conditions (MCC)



United Kingdom

2 in 3



United States 6 in 10

Globally 1 in 3

Percentage of Population Over age 60 Living with MCCs

Sources: The Kings Fund (UK); CDC (US)



Social and Economic Vulnerabilities

Key Determinants of Health Outcomes

(by source)



Number of the world's people living in hunger:

1 billion

Number of the world's people who are homeless:

1.6 billion

Number of adults who miss or delay nonemergency medical care due to transportation harriors

~ 1.6 million (UK)

~ 3.6 million (US)

Care Coordination and Continuity



Decreased hospital capacity caused by longer bed stays





Time consuming, manual process takes time away from patient and causes employee dissatisfaction

Multiple stakeholder involvement is challenging to manage manually (patient/family, hospital, post-acute facilities, nurses, planners, etc.)

Higher cost to hospitals and NHS when discharge is delayed



Unnecessarily longer stays result in increased health risk to patients





Patients with unaddressed social needs are at high risk of readmission

The Global Impact

Organizational Impact:

- Rising healthcare expenditures
- Increased economic burden
- Rising overall health services utilization
- Increased ED utilization
- Rising admissions and readmissions
- Elevated rates of primary and specialty care physician access
- Overburdened clinical and ancillary staff

Individual Impact:

- Increased health risk
- Increased out of pocket expense
- Difficulty with medication adherence
- Inability to work
- Lesser quality of life
- Decreased length of life
- Increased caregiver burden

This economic burden heightens the need to manage people with several chronic illnesses in more efficient ways.

– Dr Chris Salisbury, University of Bristol



We Can Do Better

For our patients overall health and quality of life

For the financial viability of our health care system and organizations

For the millions of dedicated health care workers who strive to provide the level and quality of care patients deserve.



The Current Discharge Process

Clockwise, from the top

NHS Intermediate Care is then arranged by the hospital social work team before the patient is discharged

> - If care does not include social needs, risk for readmission

> > If patient meets financial criteria, hospitals help arrange care

- If hospitals are not arranging care, the patient/family is arranging care



Patient identified as a complex discharge



The Need for Intelligent Systems

Automating duplicative processes with technology could help mitigate problems that result from discharge issues

Future State:

- Waste, rework and redundancy is reduced
- Opportunities for errors are minimized
- Enabling technology improves efficiency
- Patient experience is enhanced
- Engaged and more fulfilled care team and staff
- Healthcare spending is reduced
- Improved quality outcomes



Improving the Discharge Process Through Automation





Imagine...



Having access to an electronic tool that contained a list of patients that needed discharge assistance



Being able to electronically select the clinical documentation that needed to accompany the patient on the next phase of their medical journey



Having easy electronic search capability to locate the most appropriate care home/service for your patient in a preferred geographic region



Being able to electronically send as many referrals as needed



Having all of this unfold within minutes, without leaving your workspace or picking up a telephone



Being able to serve other patients while awaiting answers to your referral requests

Improving Discharge Efficiency through Post Acute Provider Engagement



Improving efficiency is a two-step process of automation and engagement

- Automation: creating a process flow and implementing an electronic discharge solution for hospitals and post-acute providers greatly reduces the time to placement
- **Engagement:** technology is only part of the solution. Also need an engaged, responsive network of placement and service providers at your fingertips

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Conclusion



Efficiency Through Automation

Creating a process flow and implementing an electronic discharge solution for hospitals and post-acute providers greatly reduces the time to placement, which improves outcomes and reduces costs.

Engaged Ecosystem

Access to entire network of resources backed by technology and an engaged service model focused on keeping your patient healthy and out of the hospital.

Improved Experience & Outcomes

Automation and standardization of the workflow reduces variability, decreases costs, improves reliability of outcomes and enhances the overall patient experience.

Questions and Contact Information

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