Report on Nursing Facility Electronic Solutions and Care Transitions

July 13, 2017

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GNYHA and its affiliate, the GNYHA Foundation, are pleased to present the *New York–Reducing Avoidable Hospitalizations (NY-RAH): 2017 Nursing Facility Electronic Solutions Report.* The attached report discusses the use of health information technology to improve transitions of care between hospitals and nursing facilities and is based on a survey conducted of the nursing facilities participating in the NY–RAH project. The list of the 60 NY–RAH participating nursing facilities is included in the report.

The report includes data on the nursing facilities' use of regional health information organizations (RHIOs). The report also provides aggregated information on the increased use of Direct Messaging, a web-based technology that securely transmits encrypted protected health information in a structured format, since the NY–RAH project conducted a similar survey in 2015. Direct Messaging is used to transmit a document (referred to as the Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture, or C-CDA) that includes important information about a patient's treatment at a provider setting in a standardized format. The report reviews best practices and gaps in workflow design in the use of the C-CDA among the nursing facilities.

Highlights of the Report

The report found that:

There has been a 40% increase in the percent of nursing facilities receiving C-CDAs from at least one hospital and 31% increase in the percent of nursing facilities receiving C-CDAs from two or more hospitals.

There is a delay in nursing facilities receiving the C-CDA following the patient admission, which presents a challenge to the nursing facility in developing a standardized clinical workflow.

While many nursing facilities are interested in RHIO connectivity, few of the nursing facilities are conducting any data sharing activities.

Background on the NY–RAH Project

GNYHA Foundation was one of seven organizations across the country awarded a cooperative agreement in 2012 from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to conduct a project to improve the quality of care for long-stay nursing facility residents. Interventions to support quality improvement; palliative care; and electronic solutions were implemented, and a second phase began in 2016 which added payment incentives for treating six clinical conditions at the nursing facility, and is expected to continue until 2020. To support electronic communication between nursing facilities and hospitals during transitions of care, NY–RAH implemented Direct Messaging and is tracking its usage within a subset of the NY–RAH facilities.

The NY–RAH project management team will continue to work with stakeholders to further nursing facility adoption of the C-CDA and address the workflow challenges that hinder optimal use of health information technology.

For questions about the report or to request hard copies, please contact Jeffrey Paul.

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Resources

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2017 Nursing Facility Electronic Solutions Report