

US Providers' Plea to Secure the Future of Acute Hospital Care at Home



Amidst the COVID pandemic, healthcare innovations emerged as beacons of change, among them the Acute Hospital Care at Home program. As we navigate the post-pandemic landscape, it's imperative to recognize the invaluable contributions of this initiative and advocate for its continuation. Introduced by the Centres for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in November 2020 as an expansion of the Hospitals Without Walls program, Acute Hospital Care at Home has revolutionised healthcare delivery. Its significance was underscored by Moving Healthcare Home's recent plea to Congress for a five-year extension, a call supported by over 70 stakeholders, signaling a consensus on its pivotal role in shaping the future of care.

Patient-Centric Paradigm: The Success Story of Acute Hospital Care at Home

Research preceding the pandemic had already hinted at the potential of hospital-at-home models to enhance patient outcomes and satisfaction. Patients and caregivers expressed a clear preference for receiving care in the comfort of their homes, provided their conditions allowed. The programme not only fulfilled this preference but also demonstrated lower readmission and mortality rates, coupled with reduced costs—a trifecta of benefits that traditional inpatient care struggles to match. The success stories of Acute Hospital Care at Home are not confined to anecdotal evidence. Rigorous studies have affirmed its efficacy, with institutions like Mass General Brigham reporting impressive outcomes. Dr. David Michael Levine's assertion of consistent outcomes across diverse patient populations underscores the program's versatility and inclusivity, debunking any scepticism regarding its applicability.

Scaling New Heights: The Expansion and Versatility of Acute Hospital Care at Home

Expansion figures speak volumes about the program's traction. From its modest inception with six health systems, it has burgeoned to encompass over 320 hospitals—a testament to its scalability and relevance in varied healthcare settings. Moving Healthcare Home's projection that one in six hospitals could adopt the programme by 2030 further underscores its potential to become a cornerstone of modern healthcare. Critical to the program's success is its alignment with existing technology and stringent eligibility criteria. Leveraging remote monitoring, virtual visits, and in-home appointments, it seamlessly integrates into established healthcare frameworks. Moreover, the emphasis on patient stability and caregiver presence ensures safety and enhances the feasibility of home-based care.

Financial impact, Fiscal Prudence and Advocacy

Financial viability is another compelling argument for the program's continuity. Reports citing significant cost savings compared to traditional inpatient care highlight its economic merit. With projections suggesting savings of up to 50%, it stands as a beacon of fiscal prudence—an attribute not lost on providers aiming to optimize resource allocation. Despite its achievements, the program faces expiration at the end of the year, necessitating Congressional action for extension. Failure to do so could hinder program expansion and impede return on investment for healthcare systems. Moving Healthcare Home's plea for a five-year extension aims to ensure equitable development of home-based services and uninterrupted access for Medicare beneficiaries.

Without Congressional intervention, the program faces an uncertain future, stifling further innovation and depriving Medicare beneficiaries of invaluable services. Moving Healthcare Home's impassioned plea for an extension echoes the sentiments of countless stakeholders, emphasizing the need for continuity to ensure equitable access to home-based care. As we stand at the crossroads of healthcare evolution, the decision to preserve Acute Hospital Care at Home transcends partisan divides. It embodies a commitment to patient-centric care, fiscal responsibility, and innovation—the cornerstones of a resilient healthcare system. Let us seize this opportunity to safeguard the gains of the past and pave the way for a future where quality care knows no bounds.

Source: [Moving Healthcare Home](#)

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