



Hospital-to-Home Transition Program Saves Area Hospitals Nearly \$2 million in Readmission Costs

After nearly three years of implementation, Direction Home Akron Canton's Acute Care Transitions (ACT) program has saved area hospitals nearly two million dollars in readmission costs and reduced hospital readmissions by nearly eight percent.

Data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is clear, our ACT program significantly improves hospital-to-home transitions for Medicare patients and effectively reduces hospital readmissions.

Hospital readmissions, as defined by CMS, include an admission to a hospital within 30 days of discharge from the same, or another hospital. When the Acute Care Transitions program began in 2010, the average readmission rate was 19.6 percent. Today, readmission rates have dropped to 11.7 percent in the greater Akron area.

Reducing hospital readmissions through health coaching improves the discharge experience a patient has, while lowering health care spending. Marvin Englebrect, a patient of Western Reserve Hospital, received the services of Direction Home Akron Canton's Acute Care Transitions program and successfully transitioned from the hospital back to his home in the community without a readmission, despite several complex medical conditions.



Marvin and Sandra Englebrect

Marvin suffers with problems with his gall bladder, Carotid Artery disease, and respiratory failure. Prior to his experience with Direction Home Akron Canton's ACT program, Marvin found himself back and forth between the hospital, rehabilitation facilities, and home. Marvin was able to successfully transition home after working with the Acute Care Transitions team.

When asked about their transition, Marvin's wife Sandra said, "Well, it has been very helpful and encouraging. It's going very well." "The personal health record is really helpful. I carry it with me all the time. I make copies for all of his (Marvin's) doctors." "It's good to have someone to talk to and we are very happy with the transition," Marvin said.

Direction Home Akron Canton's Acute Care Transitions program is an important initiative for both the patient and the hospital. The program saves the hospitals money and helps to prevent avoidable fines. But, more importantly, the Acute Care Transitions program helps patients to get home and stay home.