Lightbeam
Health Solutions

BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan Reduces Swing Bed Utilization by 70% Using Lightbeam Analytics

BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan is a division of BHSH System, a not-for-profit health system that provides care and coverage with a team of more than 64,000 dedicated people offering services in 22 hospitals, over 300 outpatient locations, and several post-acute facilities. With a goal of putting people at the heart of everything they do, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan contracted with Lightbeam in 2019 to help them deliver the right care to the right patients at the right time.

In April of 2021, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan began tracking opportunities in post-acute value programs for the West Michigan ACO. Using Lightbeam's industry-leading analytics solution, they were able to identify high utilization of swing beds. Swing bed agreements allow small, rural hospitals to use open beds for acute or skilled nursing care. These services play a valuable role for patients in rural locations, but can be costly—in BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan's case, swing bed use cost as much as $57,000 per patient per stay.

The program administrator concluded that by monitoring post-acute swing bed utilization, the organization could save money without sacrificing quality patient care. To drive reductions in utilization, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan needed to provide and track related patient data and encourage appropriate use of the organization's high-performing skilled nursing facility (SNF) network.

The Solution

With Lightbeam's help, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan developed processes to generate awareness and provide education related to swing bed use. Using Lightbeam's analytics and Cohort Builder, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan's data and analytics team was able to identify patients admitted to swing bed locations and track key metrics, including length of stay and total estimated costs. Data was added to dashboards and used to provide key stakeholders—organizational leaders, network providers, care managers, and other resources related to the initiative—with education on appropriate use of services. The dashboards were also used to trend performance over time and report on the program's success.

"Moving forward, the BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan team will continue to use Lightbeam to monitor and track data related to its value-based care programs."

Sallie Prins, MS, RN, BSN, BC
Director Post-Acute, Population Health, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan

BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan

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Outcomes

- 69% decrease in swing bed admissions
- 66% decrease in days in swing bed stays
- Estimated $570,000 in savings
- Greater provider engagement and education

Solution

Lightbeam's Population Health Management Platform

- Optimize Quality Scores & Reporting
- Increase Revenue
- Maximize Shared Savings
- Reduce Unnecessary Utilization

Goals

- Identify and monitor swing bed utilization
- Educate providers and care teams on appropriate use
- Track key metrics and trend data over time for reporting

The Results

West Michigan ACO was able to see substantial savings after implementing the post-acute care program. Originally, staff identified 68 swing bed admissions and 936 days for total patient length of stay. Upon re-evaluation 10 months after the program measures were adopted and tracked within Lightbeam, swing bed admissions were reduced to 21 with 315 days in stay, a 69% decrease and 66% decrease, respectively.

Swing bed utilization carried a high cost to the organization, ranging from $23,000 to over $50,000 per stay, while high-performing SNFs averaged just $10,000 per stay. By educating care teams and prioritizing appropriate use, BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan realized an estimated $570,000 in avoided spend for the year.

Given the success of this deep-dive analysis, the BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan data and analytics team will continue to use Lightbeam's dashboards to monitor and track data related to its value-based care programs. The educational push will also continue, utilizing Lightbeam dashboards and reports to inform care teams and leadership about appropriateness of care. They will also continue promoting appropriateness of care, quality, and optimal outcomes, which will lower the total cost of care while maintaining the high level of service patients have come to expect from BHSH Spectrum Health West Michigan.