
Hospices Adding Inpatient Capability At Hospitals



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Adding Inpatient Hospice Services

Introducing inpatient hospice services in a hospital setting brings many challenges to an organization. From an administrative perspective, transitioning to an inpatient arena may necessitate shifting from paper to an electronic medical record solution.

Adopting new technologies can be a bumpy experience as stakeholders adjust to the new workflow, but the benefits of doing so far outweigh the temporary inconveniences.

Furthermore, integrating with a hospital's established data systems may result in unexpected interoperability challenges if these disparate solutions can't talk to one another. Patients transferring to hospice care typically require immediate attention, and any delays could result in a less-than-ideal experience for the patient and the patient's family.

Financial challenges cannot be understated either, as failure to properly document hospice general inpatient care (GIP) can result in claims denials or inaccurate

payments, thus increasing the risk of audits from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). When a non-profit hospice that has serviced its Eastern Seaboard area since 1980 decided to partner with a nearby hospital to increase the breadth of its hospice services, it needed a flexible EMR solution.

Looking for an EMR Solution

Bringing inpatient services to a hospital can be an effective way to round out the benefits offered by a hospice organization. Patients and their families may feel more comfortable choosing a hospice provider with a complete set of services, should the patient require acute care at end of life. The Eastern Seaboard hospice was able to achieve this goal by partnering with the hospital to add beds as part of its new inpatient offerings.

To better integrate with the hospital's existing data management solutions, the hospice leveraged the leading interoperability features of NDoc.



“NDoc reduces the risk of improper medication administration”

Integrating Hospital and Hospice Services

A key element that made NDoc the perfect solution was its ability to efficiently transfer the continuity of care document (CCD) and the medical administration record (MAR) between data systems. NDoc makes it easy to send, receive and parse these important documents as patients move between care settings.

Additionally, NDoc reduces the risk of improper medication administration by interfacing with automated dispensing cabinets as well as with the hospital pharmacy. When these systems can communicate with one another, clinicians have more opportunities to ease patient pain levels and manage symptoms.

From a financial perspective, the best-in-class interoperability features of NDoc allow for report generation and thorough care documentation. Because CMS requires that hospice organizations track the time increments that clinicians spend with GIP patients, it's

extremely important that all interactions are captured and reported. NDoc makes it easy for providers to track these interactions so administrators can deliver accurate information to CMS.

Benefiting from Hospice Integration

When disparate health data systems can speak to one another, everyone benefits. Providers gain more opportunities to capture an accurate picture of care, and patients facing end of life can receive added comfort and stability during their final days.

To learn more about how award-winning NDoc® hospice and home health software can help your organization, [contact our expert consultants today.](#)



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