



# Community Palliative Care Reduces Hospital Readmission

Allina Health  
Home Care Services  
St. Paul, MN  
Community Palliative Care Team

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Topic:  
Palliative Care Delivery/Operations:  
Innovative and emerging community-based  
palliative care

Severity Score	Readmission Rate <u>without</u> Palliative Care Consult	Readmission Rate <u>with</u> Palliative Care Consult
At risk status with return to normal health.	12.1%	3.7%
At high risk and fragile status.	21.0%	5.6%
Serious condition and prognosis less than a year.	33.9%	2.6%

Project description: The Allina Health Community Palliative Care Team has provided service in the Twin Cities, Minnesota community for eight years. The team is composed primarily of eight specially trained home health nurses, with twice monthly IDT collaboration with MD, social worker and spiritual care. The community palliative care team has worked with the home health team to train some of the nurses in palliative care and also see some of their more complex patients. The team successfully provides expert symptom relief and coordination of care for patients with complex illness who continue life prolonging treatment, with high rates of referral to hospice when warranted by the patient's condition and goals of care. This year we are collecting data on hospital readmissions, reviewing the entire home health population. Patients assessed as higher risk and worse prognosis by OASIS screen showed the greatest benefit.

Results: For patients with temporary at risk status with return to normal health, readmission rate is 12.1% with no PC, 3.7% with PC. For patients at high risk and fragile status, readmission rate is 21.0% with no PC, 5.6% with PC. For patients in serious condition and prognosis less than a year, readmission rate is 33.9% with no PC, and 2.6% with PC. This is grand total for January to June 2015.