Proposal for Telemedicine in Long Term Care

October 12, 2017

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Proposal:
Challenge LTC leaders and caregivers to

1. Create a Long Term Care Telemedicine Resource for Hawaii

2. Use Healthcare Connect Funds to pay for it
Problem:
Time and distance create barriers between patient need and clinician knowledge
Situation:
• Hawaii LTC patients do not receive quality and costs benefits from TM

Background:
• 48 nursing homes, 4300 beds, 4000 patients
• 260 ARCH homes with 1500 patients
• Difficult to find LTC bed
• Penalties for readmissions and ED visits
• $14 billion Medicare costs for SNF transfers to hospital
• 25% of MC admissions are readmitted within 30 days
• 8% are readmitted within 48 hours
Assessment:
Causes of high admission rates-
  • No physician presence 24x7 & “telephone exams”
  • Difficulty of staff explaining clinical problem
  • Culture of hospitalization
Benefits of TM–
  • Provide specialized care quicker
  • Improve competitive advantage of facility
  • Manage family expectations of care
  • Savings SNF $150,000 per year with telemedicine
  • Decrease penalties from PAH by 30 to 70%
  • Decrease hypoglycemia for diabetics using TM
  • LTC Physicians believe TM improves quality of care
LTC TM for Hawaii

Request:

1. Organize a LTC TM community resource
2. Pay for LTC TM with Healthcare Connect Fund
   a. Fed program subsidizing broadband costs for TM
   b. Facility must be a member of an HCF consortium
   c. Lonestar HCF consortium in Texas, Maine, and Hawaii
   d. 65 – 85% reduction in facility broadband costs
   e. Use HCF savings to pay for telemedicine applications
Suggestions, Questions, References:

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