Aligning Forces for Quality: Improving Quality in Hospitals

Reducing Readmissions

Each year, within 30 days of discharge...

24.5% of Medicare patients with chronic diseases are readmitted to the hospital...

$12-17 billion

...resulting in an estimated $12-17 billion extra in unnecessary spending for this care.

Language Services

Nearly 25 million Americans speak little or no English and would need the help of an interpreter to have meaningful conversations with their doctors.

25M

Improving ED Throughput

The number of annual emergency department (ED) visits rose 32% between 1996 and 2006...

5%

and the number of hospital EDs across the country shrunk almost 5% from 1991 to 2006...

Engaging Nurses & Frontline Staff

When nurses and frontline staff are overburdened and unhappy, patient care suffers and staff often leave their jobs. The average annual turnover rate for nurses in U.S. hospitals is up to 14% per year.

14%

The rate on medical-surgical units—where close to 40% of unanticipated hospital deaths occur—may be even higher.

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation