

BROADCAST- Demonstrating the value of Hospital at Home programs

OSF and Medically Home-led simulation will give federal lawmakers a first-hand look

Sometimes seeing is believing. That's why [OSF HealthCare](#) and its partner for its Acute Hospital Care at Home program (AHCAH) will provide federal lawmakers with an in-person demonstration of how acute care, provided at home, is safe, cost-effective and valued by patients.

The demonstration taking place May 17-18 at a hotel near the capitol building in Washington D.C. OSF HealthCare and partner Medically Home will set up a simulation of acute care at home with trained actors.

Vice President for Digital Care at OSF OnCall Brandi Clark says OSF piloted a program in May of 2020 to keep people who could be cared for at home, out of the hospital.

“We achieved great outcomes and the patients absolutely loved it. They were able to get the care where they were comfortable in their homes, with the families and their children and their pets around them and we were able to deliver that care at a lower cost while allowing our system to keep those patients in the hospital who really, truly needed to be there.” (:21)

Clark says the program provides every service available during a hospital stay.

“From providing meals to the patients, drawing their labs, even things like X-ray are able to be provided in the patients’ home.” (:11)

OSF OnCall Digital Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Matt Gorman, who will be making the trip to Washington, says the government was allowing Acute Care at Home pilots even before the pandemic and research from those efforts shows patients recover faster and have fewer hospital readmissions when they can be cared for at home.

“CMS started a demonstration three years prior to COVID and really showed benefits. What this really showed was people recover faster and have fewer readmissions which is significant; and people just do better at home.” (:14)

The simulation will allow lawmakers see first-hand patient care and support, delivered through home visits, paired with a 24/7 digital care command center.

“That it is the ICU, it is the maternity ward, it is the general medical bed. For some who are healthy, they may not have been in the hospital for 20 years so they lose touch with it (inpatient care). So this is an opportunity for us to educate our legislators about what today’s modern health care is.” (:18)

Pending bi-partisan legislation, called the [Hospital Inpatient Services Modernization Act](#) will extend a waiver for two more years and requires development of regulations to guide acute care at home programs. Dr. Gorman says it'll provide more certainty, allowing continued investments and development while giving hospitals an opportunity to be more prepared for future health emergencies.

“We’re going to be well suited and situated for the next whatever it is - whether it’s another COVID wave or whether it’s another virus - and so that allows us to have more

capacity within our health care system which allows us to care for patients safer and more effectively.” (:21)

If lawmakers don't extend the waiver, acute care at home will end before the end of the year.