

RECOVERING AT HOME



Situation

The patient with no prior significant medical history had a recent episode of facial and extremity weakness, gait disturbance, body numbness, and other symptoms. The patient went to the ER and was admitted on 3 occasions for what was eventually determined to be a misdiagnosis. The patient was not progressing at an inpatient rehabilitation facility and a second opinion led to a transfer to a teaching hospital where his condition deteriorated. The family requested a transfer to a national center of excellence where the patient underwent a brain lesion biopsy and was diagnosed with CNS Lymphoma. During inpatient rehabilitation, the patient's condition deteriorated further and they were hospitalized for hypoxic respiratory failure related to pneumonia and aspiration. Chemotherapy was initiated and followed by additional setbacks and complications.

The patient was hospitalized almost continuously during the previous 8-month period. The hospital wished to discharge the patient to LTAC but the family insisted that they receive outpatient radiation therapy via home services.

Solution

The case was referred to Communitas and the OnSIGHT Health Case RN Manager obtained permission to meet with the patient and their family in their home. The family attended to the patient in their home and were concerned about a return to inpatient care given the recurrent facility-acquired infections. In the 3 weeks at home, the patient's condition stabilized from an infection control standpoint and hope for recovery was restored. The patient received home nursing services as needed to supplement the care given by the family. The family preferred to keep the patient at home during their outpatient cancer therapy. However, there was a concern that the patient would require additional in-home support.

The OnSIGHT Health RN Case Manager met with the patient, family members, the home nursing company, and the outpatient cancer treatment center. The assessment determined that the primary goal going forward is to keep the patient out of an acute care setting while they complete their cancer treatment and rehabilitation efforts. Keeping the patient infection free will assist in maximizing their potential for regaining the highest level of pre-morbid physiological function.

Results

The OnSIGHT Health RN Case Manager spoke with the Oncologist and determined likely responses to treatment and usual remission timeframes so that the client could best plan for the patient's anticipated needs. The Case Manager worked with the patient's spouse regarding additional resources offered through their other insurance plans. This offset some of the costs associated with the outpatient treatment and management. Home therapy services that were being paid for by the client could be transitioned to another insurance plan, thus saving the client money previously needed to cover the outpatient treatment charges.

About Communitas

We are a specialty services company within AmWINS Group Benefits that provides care management solutions to stop loss carriers, TPAs and self-funded employer plans. OnSIGHT Health, our innovative onsite case management offering, deploys Certified RN Case Managers anywhere in the country when a catastrophic, high-dollar claim hits.

There is a place for traditional care management programs that address routine medical episodes. However, these simple solutions are ineffective when it comes to high-dollar cases.

To learn more about Communitas, visit communitas.com.

SAVINGS	DESCRIPTION
\$390,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous 8 months of inpatient care (estimated cost of \$1,040,000) • Conservatively, reducing inpatient days by 50% for 6 months = cost avoidance of \$390,000