



Leadership Blog
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NewHealth Collaborative's Role in Patient Health



Summa Health. The word “Health” is in our name. What does that mean, though? If you are like me, you get so focused on your own corner of the world that sometimes it helps to stop and look around at everything else.

In 2019, our 1005 licensed beds saw 34,560 admissions while 155,171 visits were made to our emergency departments. Yet this is only a fraction of the healthcare delivered to our patients. For every visit to an emergency department, there will be almost nine visits to a primary care provider. These primary care visits are for things ranging from a sinus infection to a diabetes check to a routine physical.

Put another way, most healthcare takes place outside of our hospitals and emergency departments. In fact, if we do our job well enough and keep people healthy, we can keep them out of the hospital for non-emergencies.

That last part – keeping healthy people out of the hospital – is basically what NewHealth Collaborative tries to do. We focus on value in healthcare: improving both the quality and the patient’s experience of care, while reducing per capita cost. We do this by putting our efforts into redesigning primary care practices to be run by proactive, data driven teams. And we have care managers who laser in on our most high risk, vulnerable patients. By doing those two things, we’ve been able to save Medicare more than \$50 million dollars since 2012. And we’ve improved quality, to the point where we are one of the highest quality healthcare organizations in the country.

But what about those patients who still end up in the ED or hospital? This is where Summa Health and NewHealth Collaborative partner together – arranging for appropriate follow up after discharge, making sure all the appropriate information is shared with all providers and including each other in our patient care teams.

Working together. That’s what the “Health” of Summa Health means to me.

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