

Meds to Beds Program Supports Physicians, Patients

Meds to Beds, currently available at 10 AMITA Health hospitals, is a program that works to bring patient medications directly to their room upon discharge, saving them or their loved ones a visit to a retail pharmacy. The program, initially developed at AMITA Health Hinsdale in 2012 by **Myra Priser, R.Ph.**, system director, Retail Pharmacy Services, supports patients, physicians, pharmacists and staff.

A major benefit to the program has been patient safety and reducing readmission rates. “If our patients have their medications in hand when they leave, their chances of compliance greatly increase,” Priser said. “It also provides a teaching opportunity. We can see if the patients have any questions and we provide follow-up calls to high-risk patients.”

AMITA in-house pharmacies have the ability to access the patient’s EMR, unlike off-site retail pharmacies, which enables pharmacists to clarify any possible discrepancies directly with the physician, see other medications they might be taking and take note of any financial barriers. “Our goal is to make this a smooth transition of care for our patients. We can initiate prior-authorizations, find cost-saving opportunities and provide the convenience of bringing a mobile device to the bedside so they can pay their co-pays,” said Priser.

Meds to Beds has been well received by patients and providers alike. Pharmacists have partnered with nurse leadership and providers on each unit to meet their patient-specific needs, and to ensure the whole process is seamless for the patient. “This program is valuable because even after putting together a care plan and getting a patient discharged and home, if they don’t have what they need to get healthy, then they’re back in the hospital,” said **Vinay Huliya, M.D.**, hospital medicine. “The pharmacist gets back to me immediately if a medicine is not covered or requires prior authorization, and it can be handled swiftly before the patient is discharged. It gives me assurance that my patients have received the right prescription.”

The program is currently available at AMITA Health Hinsdale, GlenOaks, Bolingbrook, Elk Grove Village, St. Alexius, La Grange, Aurora, Evanston, Saints Mary and Elizabeth Chicago and Resurrection Chicago. In the future, Priser hopes to see it grow to all AMITA hospitals and AMITA-owned retail pharmacies, with patients being offered this service from the moment they walk in the door.

“Our patients rave about this service; they are so appreciative. It embodies our Mission and Vision,” Priser said. “It’s an act of kindness we can provide to our patients and it gives them what they need for success, providing communication and confidence when they leave the hospital.”



Myra Priser, R.Ph., system director, Retail Pharmacy Services helped develop the Meds to Beds program at AMITA Health Hinsdale in 2012.