

PILOT FOR DISPENSING BULK MEDICATIONS TO PATIENTS AT DISCHARGE AND IMPACT ON READMISSION RATES

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Readmission rates are a core measurement for quality of care at hospitals and play a role in determining reimbursement by Medicare. The majority of patients served by SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis come from the city of St. Louis, whose demographics align with a patient population that has been proven to be prone to frequent readmission rates. Currently at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis, there is not a policy in place for sending patients home with partially used multi-dose medications that were used while inpatient. One study showed that by sending patients home with these medications at discharge, all-cause 30-day readmission rates decreased.

The purpose of this study is to determine the impact of dispensing multi-dose medications including insulin pens, inhalers, and topical products on readmission rates at SSM Health Saint Mary's Hospital-Saint Louis.

Potential patients will be identified by discharge orders and prospective data collection will be performed by the primary investigator (PGY-1 pharmacy resident at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis) along with the help of case managers, physicians, and nurses. All retrospective data will be assessed and analyzed by the primary investigator, who is a pharmacist employed by SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis.

The results of the study will be used to implement changes in the discharge process at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-St. Louis.

Learning Objective:

- Explain the benefits of dispensing remainder of multi-dose medications to patients at the end of hospital stay