

Sample letter to Physicians

DATE

Dear PHYSICIAN NAME:

Nationally, approximately 1 in 5 Medicare beneficiaries experience a re-hospitalization within 30-days post-acute discharge and estimates show that 76% of these readmissions may be preventable. In an effort to improve care coordination and chronic care management, NAME OF AGENCY is committed to working collaboratively with other healthcare providers, consumers and community service providers in our community.

Because older patients with chronic illness often require care from multiple health care professionals in a variety of settings, communication and care coordination among providers, patients and their informal caregivers is critical. The Home Care industry is an integral part of the care team managing patients outside of the traditional setting.

Home care providers are a vital part of the care transitions coordination of care. By providing care for those unable to leave their homes, home care agencies work to help individuals remain as self-sufficient as possible in their own homes, thus, avoiding institutional long-term care. Diverse in its makeup, home care includes nursing care as well as other services, like physical and occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, and medical social services and personal care services.

Home care agencies are in an ideal position to assist patients, family caregivers, and the cross-continuum team in a successful transition out of the hospital that achieves clinical stability and improves patient outcomes. Excellent and proactive intervention by home care agency staff at the point of a transition for a patient into home care is a significant strategy to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations.

We would appreciate the opportunity to explain more about this exciting, cross-setting initiative and the benefits home care can have for your patients. Your support and encouragement of this initiative is integral to the success in improving the quality of health care for this community! To discuss this collaboration further, please contact me at _____. By working together, we have the opportunity to improve rehospitalization rates – and do the right thing for patients.

Sincerely,