

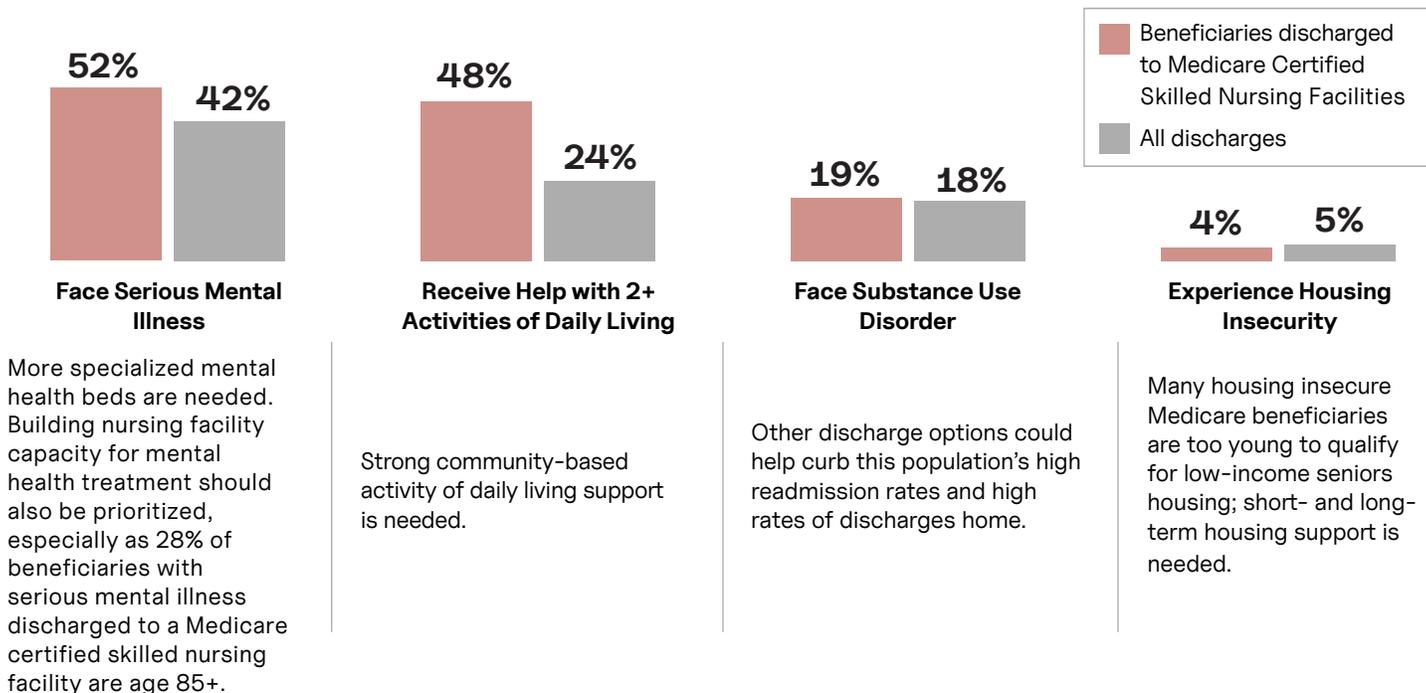
Ensuring Timely Hospital Discharge and Access to Appropriate Services & Supports for Individuals with Complex Needs – A Policy Roadmap

About this Work

- Hospitals face challenges discharging individuals with complex needs, due partly to unclear discharge eligibility requirements. In some cases, individuals with complex needs may not have a residence, or their residence may not be able to accommodate their needs. Meanwhile, nursing facilities face pressure to accept these individuals, while lacking the specialized services and supports to address complex needs, particularly mental health needs. These issues are compounded by challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.
- This combination of the current market and policy landscape, and the complex profile of individuals discharged to nursing facilities, has left individuals without the appropriate services and supports.
- To address these challenges, The American Health Care Association (AHCA) and ATI Advisory collaborated to (1) explore and quantify the complex needs of Medicare beneficiaries discharged from the hospital to skilled nursing facilities and (2) identify federal and state opportunities to enable improvements in timely hospital discharge and access to appropriate services and supports for individuals with complex needs.

Complex Profile of Beneficiaries Discharged from the Hospital to Skilled Nursing Facilities

Beneficiaries discharged to Medicare certified skilled nursing facilities are likely to experience **longer hospital stays**, have **higher risk scores**, and be **older** than those discharged to other settings.



Federal and **state** policymakers have opportunities when it comes to ensuring timely hospital discharge and access to appropriate services and supports for individuals with complex needs.

Summary of Federal Opportunities

At the federal level, the **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services** (CMS) can:

- 1 Issue guidance letters and informational bulletins for hospitals, clarifying eligibility rules and restrictions across discharge locations.
- 2 Continue providing technical assistance and issuing guidance to states on approaches available within current authority, especially Medicaid 1115 waiver authority, to test Medicaid payment for housing supports.
- 3 Explore Section 1115A Innovation Center (i.e., Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation [CMMI]) models to test, for example, different ways of delivering and reimbursing care for individuals with serious mental illness in nursing facilities.

Summary of State Opportunities

States can improve timely hospital discharge and access to appropriate services and supports by examining existing eligibility processes across settings, forging new partnerships, and leveraging innovation in delivery and payment systems. Examples include:

Promote Timely Discharge via Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Processes

- 1 Assess existing PASRR processes to determine where efficiencies may promote more timely level of need determinations (e.g., delegating responsibility to outside entities for Level II determinations).

Maximize Value from Managed Care Entity (MCE) Arrangements

- 3 Harness purchasing power with MCEs to ensure that they are leveraging full managed care authority (e.g., addressing members' health-related social needs through federal "in lieu of" services, and requiring value-based purchasing arrangements between MCEs and skilled and long-stay nursing facilities).

Build Nursing Facility Capacity

- 2 Explore nursing facility payment policies, including value-based purchasing models, that incentivize investments in the clinical capabilities and resources nursing facilities need to treat individuals with complex medical and social needs (e.g., mental health diagnoses and needs).

Leverage Innovation through Section 1115 Medicaid Waivers

- 4 Test Medicaid funding for non-traditional health services (e.g., supportive housing), including investments in the infrastructure needed to address health-related social needs.

About ATI Advisory

ATI Advisory is a healthcare research and advisory services firm advancing innovation that fundamentally transforms the care experience for individuals, families, and communities. ATI guides public and private leaders in successfully scaling healthcare innovations. Its nationally recognized experts apply the highest standards in research and advisory services along with deep expertise to generate new ideas, solve hard problems, and reduce uncertainty in a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. For more information, visit www.atiadvisory.com.