

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOTHWELL HOME HEALTH NAMED IN NATIONAL STUDY *Identified Among Top Performers in Preventing Hospital Readmissions*

SEDALIA – Bothwell Home Health was selected to participate in a national study due to its use of best practices in reducing hospital readmissions.

The study, which was sponsored by Delta Health Technologies and co-sponsored by the National Association for Home Care and Hospice (NAHC), studied the most and least successful agencies throughout the country in preventing patient readmission to the hospital. Bothwell Home Health was selected to participate in the study because less than 20 percent of its patients are readmitted to the hospital, making it among the top performing agencies in the country.

“We have a very good reputation for helping our patients at home from being readmitted to the hospital,” said Rosemary Rundlett, Bothwell Home Health patient care coordinator and registered nurse.

Nationally, more than one out of four home care patients are rehospitalized at a cost of \$6.2 billion a year. Home health agencies are an integral part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act because prevention of readmission to the hospital improves health outcomes and can save billions of dollars. More than \$1.2 billion could be saved if the national rehospitalization rate were lowered from 26 to 21 percent.

Most home health agencies have similar, standardized policies and procedures, which are designed to minimize the likelihood of a patient’s return to the hospital. However, the Delta study identified why some agencies, like Bothwell Home Health, are more successful.

“The difference is in the implementation,” said Jamie Seifert, director of Bothwell Home Health and Hospice.

Staff education and teaching patients how to manage their diseases effectively and when to contact a nurse for help all make a difference in Bothwell’s

readmission rates, Rundlett said. Bothwell Home Health's ties to the hospital also work to the patient's advantage.

"Collaboration is key and sets us apart," Rundlett said. "We work with case managers, physicians and the staff from the Emergency Department. Every person within the organization works together with the same goal -- caring for the patient."

Bothwell Home Health participated in a phone interview as part of the "Delta Study to Reduce Hospitalizations: A National Study to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations Through Home Care."

Bothwell Home Health serves patients within a 35-mile radius of Sedalia, including all of Pettis County and portions of Cooper, Moniteau, Morgan, Benton, Henry, Saline, Johnson and Lafayette counties. More information about Bothwell Home Health is available online at brhc.org or by calling (660) 829-2700.

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Bothwell Regional Health Center is a 140-bed regional health center serving west-central Missouri with state-of-the-art technology and comprehensive health and wellness services. For more information, visit the website at www.brhc.org or find them on Facebook.