



News Release

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Columbus Community Hospital swing bed program helps patients return home

For Immediate Release

(COLUMBUS, Neb.) – Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) provides a program that enables eligible patients to recover in a local hospital bed before going home.

The swing bed program offers short-term, skilled health care services to patients who no longer need acute care, but could benefit from extra therapy before discharge.

“The swing bed program serves as a bridge to get patients home,” said Dr. Scott Cameron, a hospitalist at CCH.

A multi-disciplinary team of physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers and case managers evaluate a patient to determine if he or she could benefit from the program. Patients who might need a swing bed include those who have had surgery or need extended IV therapy, or who have an illness or medical condition that requires additional physical therapy.

“Many times, patients in swing bed are doing well but aren’t quite ready to go home without assistance,” Cameron said. “Or they could have other needs, such as IV antibiotics, for a short time. Swing bed is not for long-term care.”

The swing bed program provides additional care for one or two weeks. Hospitalists admit the patients, and therapists and nursing teams care for them. Patients do not need to switch rooms to receive care; instead, they can stay in the same room to recuperate during their stay at CCH.

The program is beneficial for patients who want to stay in Columbus without seeking assistance from another care facility.

“It gives people another option to be independent,” said Theresa Hilton, director of outreach services at CCH. “It allows a patient to go home directly from the hospital instead of stopping off at a long-term care facility.”

CCH accepts referrals from other hospitals for admittance into its swing bed program.



“If a patient is in an Omaha or Lincoln hospital, but their home is in Columbus or the surrounding area, we could take them as a swing bed patient and provide rehabilitation services,” said Dorothy Bybee, vice president of patient care services.

Program patients usually stay 10 days or less, receiving around-the-clock assistance from skilled medical professionals.

“I think the swing bed program is really valuable for our community and the service area,” Cameron said. “It is another service the hospital offers that a lot of communities don’t have.”

For more information on the swing bed program, call 402-562-4499 or visit www.columbushosp.org.

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