

Growing capacity, adding value: Lee Health is reducing beds and costs in a high-growth Medicare market

The vision

Medicare admissions in Lee County, Florida, are estimated to grow by more than 25% over the next 15 years. Lee Health has a plan to sustainably keep pace with that demand—while reducing its inpatient beds. Tied to its strategic plan, a key part of the health system's solution is to expand its care at home ecosystem. And it's focusing on hospital at home.

Co-creating the solution

Creating greater capacity was essential, and simply adding expensive facility beds wasn't an option. Hospital at home presented an opportunity. Providing patients with acute care at home offers lower costs, better clinical outcomes, and a superior patient and provider experience.

Partnering with Chartis, Lee Health designed comprehensive clinical, operating, economic, and technical models for the program. To ensure stakeholder buy-in and operational readiness, the team established program governance and a change management plan. Executives and cross-functional leaders collaborated to design and build capabilities for a successful launch.

Believe in better

Lee Health is now on a path to grow with demand, even as it decreases its inpatient facility footprint. In a short time, it will expand capacity in the lower-cost home setting. Patients will experience increased access, convenience, and comfort. Readmission rates and recovery times will decrease. And Lee Health will remain competitive in its market, as the preferred care provider for the community.

Meaningful outcomes

By Year 5, Lee Health's hospital at home program is projected to achieve:

20%

in cost savings for care delivered at home vs. a facility

7,000+

Hospital at home admissions, with an average daily census of 85

30,000+

patient days redirected to the home

Building to better

To successfully design and launch a hospital at home program, health systems need to create:

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Care at home must be integrated with strategic plans.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Executives need to lead alongside engaged functional leaders.

SPEED TO VALUE

Quickly move from business case to workflow development.

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