

Prolonged Hospital Stays Due to Discharge Delays

Florida hospitals are seeing a growing number of patients whose discharge is delayed due to a variety of issues outside the hospital's control. Between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, **117,000 patients waited more than 1 day to be discharged** to a post-acute facility or home with home care, **totaling more than 403,000 days**. Patients waiting to be discharged create stress for their families and caregivers, delay their rehabilitation or recovery, and are at higher risk for readmission. Additionally, these discharge delays create hospital capacity issues where a patient who doesn't need inpatient care is in a bed while patients needing inpatient care are stuck in the emergency department until a bed becomes available.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Impact on Patients

Medicare patients are disproportionately affected by discharge delays, as **54% of patients awaiting discharge** for over 10 days are covered by Medicare.



Prior Authorization

No one should remain hospitalized longer than necessary, yet payer policies delay discharge. **33% of patients waiting over 10 days are delayed by Prior Authorization issues.**

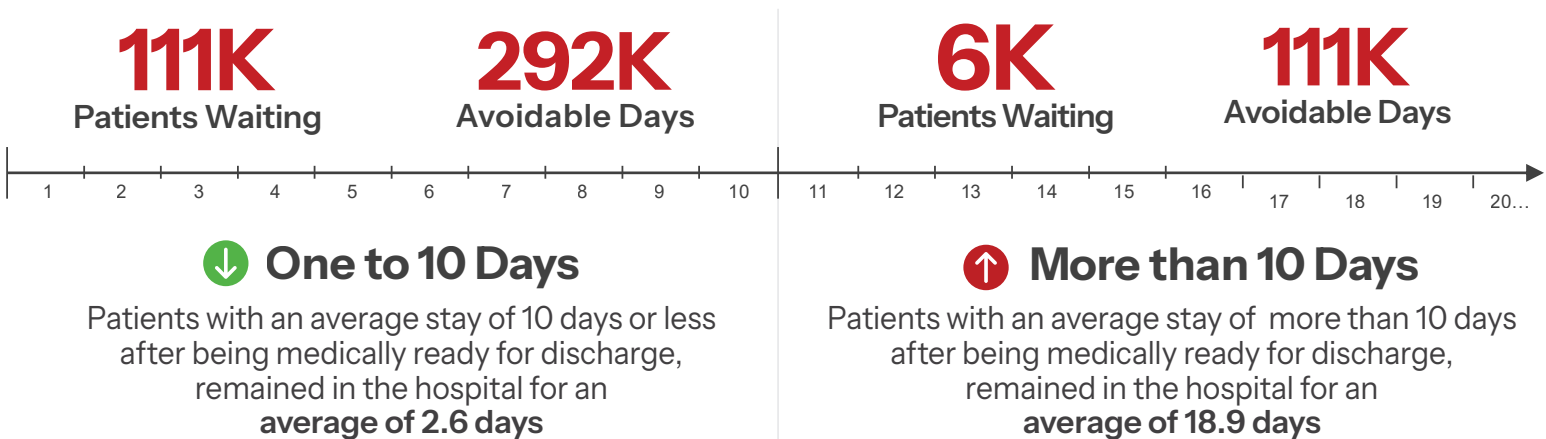


Increased Costs

Waiting for placement significantly increases hospital costs, with **\$1.1 billion in avoidable costs** incurred by hospitals with patients awaiting placement.*

Avoidable Hospital Days

38 patients **waited over 6 months** for discharge after being cleared by a physician.



THESE TYPES OF DELAYS IMPACT PATIENT RECOVERY!



FLHospitalAssn



FloridaHospitals



Florida Hospital Association



flhospitalassociation

Visit www.fha.org.

Costly Delays Impact Patient Recovery

Avoidable Costs

OVER
\$2.8K
average costs by day*

EXCEEDS
\$1.1B
in estimated avoidable costs*

Top Reasons for Delays



Prior Authorization Delays

One in three patients faced delays in discharge due to prior authorization issues, prolonging their hospital stay unnecessarily.



Caregiver Availability

One in four patients were awaiting discharge because of family or caregiver-related issues, impacting timely transitions from hospital care.



Insurance Challenges

One in seven patients experienced discharge delays due to insurance coverage issues, preventing a smooth transition to the next level of care.

Patients Waiting for Skilled Nursing



Over **37% of patients** stuck in the hospital over 24 hours are awaiting discharge to a **Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)**. These patients waited an average of **3.7 days**, with over **2,400** waiting more than 10

days for placement. Other common discharge locations include behavioral health, hospice, long-term acute care, and rehabilitation facilities.

Top 5 Reasons for Delays to SNFs

55%	Prior Authorization
23.5%	Other
9.0%	Family/Housing
8.4%	Payer Network Adequacy
2.7%	Uninsured or Other Payment

Top Payers Impacting Discharge Delays

Medicare patients account for 54% of those awaiting discharge after 10 days, with 71% of those enrolled in Medicare Advantage. Medicaid patients make up 16% of those delayed, including both Medicaid FFS and Medicaid Managed Care enrollees. Among patients delayed 10 days or more, those covered by **Medicare have an average stay of nearly 18 days**, while those with **Medicaid have an average length of stay exceeding 23 days**.

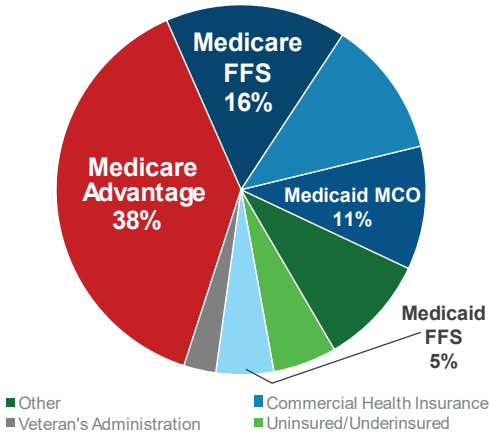
Impact of Medicare Advantage

169K
Avoidable Days

50K
Patients Waiting

\$477M
Cost Impact*

Patients Waiting Over 10 Days by Payer



This data represents 44% of beds in the state for any individual ready for hospital discharge for the period of July 1, 2023, to July 31, 2024.
*To estimate costs, inpatient per-day expenses were drawn from data reported by the Kaiser Family Foundation. This per-day rate was then multiplied by the number of reported avoidable inpatient days to calculate the total estimated expense.