

Berkshire Medical Center

BERKSHIRE COUNTY



\$4.04M

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$3M

HPC AWARD

Target Population & Aims

TARGET POPULATION

All inpatient and observation discharges of Northern Berkshire County residents.

2,298

discharges per year

PRIMARY AIM

Reduce 30-day returns by
20%

SECONDARY AIM

Reduce 30-day Emergency Department returns by
10%

Summary of Award

Berkshire Medical Center aims to reduce 30-day returns by 20% for patients from Northern Berkshire County. To achieve this goal, Berkshire is working to address social issues that lead to recurrent acute care utilization, provide enhanced care for patients with chronic conditions, and increase access to behavioral health services. The majority of services are based in the Neighborhood for Health (NFH) in North Adams, an outpatient medical care center providing comprehensive behavioral health, chronic disease management, and social services. In partnership with the co-located Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, NFH provides enhanced behavioral health services to patients in the community.

Suboxone Bridge Program

The Suboxone Bridge Program facilitates engagement with Suboxone treatment upon discharge from a detoxification hospital admission. While admitted, patients are screened by a case coordinator for medication-assisted treatment eligibility, and eligible patients are connected with the NFH's Suboxone program within one day following discharge. There, they meet with a Suboxone-waived psychiatrist several times per week for up to three weeks and participate in the Brien Center Day Treatment Program while awaiting transition to the Brien Center's Suboxone program. These programs narrow the gap between inpatient detoxification to outpatient treatment through high-touch patient engagement, treatment, and care coordination.

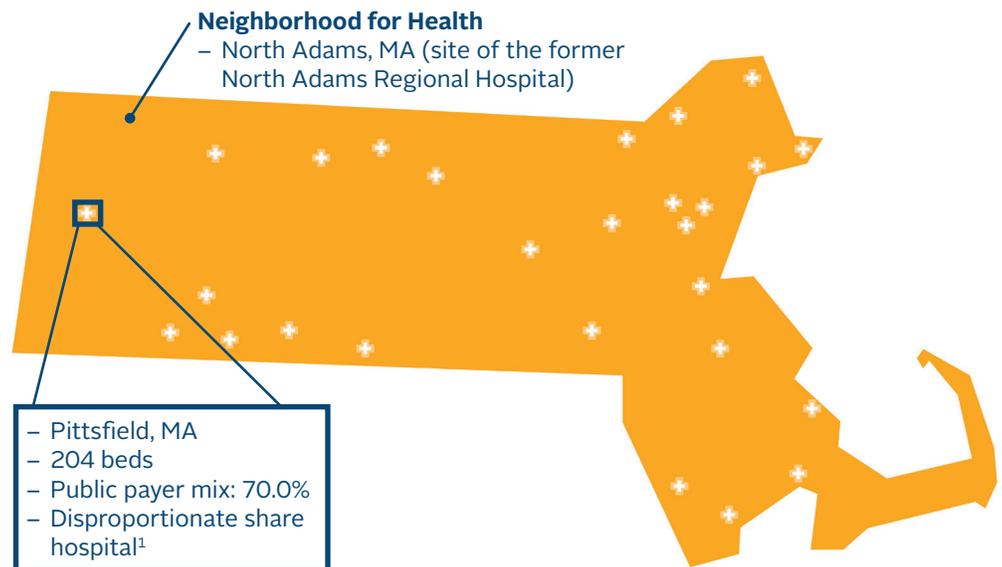


CHART & HPC Background

The Community Hospital Acceleration, Revitalization, and Transformation Investment Program (CHART) makes phased investments for certain Massachusetts community hospitals to enhance their delivery of efficient, effective care. The goal of the program is to promote care coordination, integration, and delivery transformations; advance electronic health records adoption and information exchange among providers; increase alternative payment methods and accountable care organizations; and enhance patient safety,

access to behavioral health services, and coordination between hospitals and community-based providers and organizations.

Established through the Commonwealth's landmark cost containment law, Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, the HPC is an independent state agency that monitors reform in the health care delivery and payment systems and develops policies to reduce overall cost growth while improving the quality of patient care. To learn more, please visit www.mass.gov/hpc or follow us on Twitter @Mass_HPC.

1. Source: Center for Health Information and Analysis, 2015.