Technology for Today's Rehab and Recovery

As Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) deal with an unprecedented challenge such as COVID-19, the implementation of innovative technology is more important than ever. Technology can enable facilities to overcome new obstacles, and reach greater levels of clinical and operational success. From cutting-edge patient-screener technology, which evaluates patients before they step into the facility, to rehabilitation engagement apps that bring patients and family members together no matter the distance - the latest innovations can transform every aspect of the care journey and help facilities rebound.

This guide outlines 3 key innovative technology solutions SNFs can utilize to efficiently and cost-effectively ensure operational success and positive financial throughput.

1 Patient Screener

An advanced patient screener saves valuable time and helps eliminate the possibility of error. Before admitting a patient, the facility can scan the patient's referral documentation through a screener which, within seconds, identifies key diagnoses, medications, treatment and precautions that should be considered when making a decision to admit the patient. This will help avoid negative ramifications that could end in a facility providing the wrong type of care to a patient, as well as ensuring the SNF accepts patients who meet the proper criteria and match the SNF's overall operational model.

Patient screeners ensure that the patients who can benefit most from the SNF are admitted at the right time in their care journey: a win-win for the patient and facility.

2 MDS Scrubber

Once a facility has accepted a patient, the staff must ensure coding is accurate to receive appropriate reimbursement. MDS scrubbers provide a comprehensive analysis of the MDS, pointing out crucial clinical review areas, logical inconsistencies, fatal errors and other critical data points that can impact patient care as well as payment for services - everything facilities need to capture in their MDS prior to submission. There are several MDS scrubbers on the market, but not all provide the same level of data review, seamless connection to the EMR and real-time analysis. Many require manual input resulting in greater error, which is why thorough evaluation of a system is crucial for success.

3 Patient Engagement Technology

Patient and family member engagement is key to the patient's long-term success and recovery. Providing a virtual connection between the patient and their loved ones as well as the patient and their rehab journey has been found to result in a positive impact on patient health. Utilizing a patient engagement app is vital as it stores all resources in one place and enables connection no matter the distance – a necessity in this new environment. Social relationships have been demonstrated to decrease the likelihood of the onset of chronic disease, disability, mental illness and death.[1]

③ Patient Engagement Technology *(Continued)*

However, patient access to loved ones can be challenging, especially when separated by distance, or when facilities have visitor restrictions. Having the proper technology already in place that allows patients and family members to track goals, share progress and distribute vital health information generates positive outcomes for the patient, reduces the risk of readmissions and improves overall patient satisfaction.

Case Study: Patient Engagement App Drives Results

One example of a patient engagement app that has proven results is PORT's RehabTracker app, which enables therapists to work with the patient to set and track goals in real-time. An overwhelming majority of facilities utilizing the RehabTracker app have experienced a 7.9% increase in functional gains and improvement in discharging to the community.

Gain Access to Innovation Through PORT

While utilizing the latest technology is critical for long-term success, it can be cost prohibitive to build in-house. In addition, most facilities don't have the resources, expertise or time needed to develop their own successful technology solutions.

PORT offers the latest in innovative technology to improve a facility's overall performance. Clients gain access to various tools such as PORT's proprietary screener which creates a more efficient patient pre-admission process and minimizes instances of overlooked diagnosis and medications; the Team TSI MDS Scrubber that accurately analyzes data and ensures proper coding for appropriate reimbursement; and the RehabTracker app that engages patients with their rehab journey, tracks their progress and connects with family and friends in real-time – even allowing family to share words of encouragement. Further, PORT has the expertise and dedicated support team to ensure optimal use of these tools.

PORT has decades of expertise helping facilities achieve clinical and operational excellence, and overcoming the industry's biggest obstacles. COVID-19 represents a critical challenge for SNFs. But it's not a challenge that SNFs should face alone. PORT is proud to partner with facilities to provide the solutions needed to reach operational success and best serve patients and their families throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Source

1. George, L. *"The Health-Promoting Effects of Social Bonds."*

Call 757-759-8627 to learn more about how PORT and its innovative solutions can help your facility.

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