Healing Close to Home:
Expanding Transitional Care in Rural Michigan

May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2025

Participating Critical Access Hospitals

BCMH Baraga County Memorial Hospital

SCHOOLCRAFT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Munising Memorial Hospital & Bay Care Medical Center

KALKASKA MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTER

UP HEALTH SYSTEM BELL

MUNSON HEALTHCARE Charlevoix Hospital

The Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) fosters collaboration with healthcare organizations and leads efforts in coordination, planning, and advocacy to strengthen health and healthcare across rural communities. Serving as the State Office of Rural Health for Michigan, MCRH leads programing that positively impacts the health of rural Michiganders.

Project Funded By:

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Acute Care Referral Hospitals

MUNSON HEALTHCARE

&

LEVEL II TRAUMA CENTER UP HEALTH SYSTEM MARQUETTE A Duke LifePoint Hospital

Technical Expert

allevant Post-Acute Care Solutions developed by Mayo Clinic and Select Medical

Expanded Rural Access

- 67% increase in transitional care admissions (921 patients, ~13,000 bed days)
- CAHs embedded services into routine operations and EHRs
- Average CAH stay: 13.9 days vs. 29 days in SNFs (MedPAC)

Improved Patient Recovery

- 87% of patients discharged back to home/assisted living - well above national average (57%)
- Use of MENDS® planning enhanced holistic recovery
- High patient satisfaction (4.79–4.99/5)

Workforce & Capacity Growth

- 140+ rural staff trained using Allevant modules
- Increased provider and nursing confidence and capability to manage complex post-acute patients

Success Stories: Real Impacts on Real People

Avoiding Premature Discharge: A 78-year-old knee replacement patient initially denied swing bed care by their MA plan was able to stay thanks to direct advocacy by their surgeon. After 8 days in a swing bed unit, the patient gained strength and safely transitioned home.

Patient-Centered Dementia Recovery: An 84-year-old post-surgical patient with dementia overcame significant anxiety and mobility challenges through personalized therapy, family engagement, and tailored staff support, eventually transitioning home with family care.

Medical Turnaround: A 77-year-old patient recovering from a fall and NSTEMI received timely swing bed care following inpatient treatment, regaining mobility and stability through PT/OT, and successfully returning home.

Healing Close to Home is strengthening rural post-acute care by embedding transitional care into hospital workflows, supporting staff training and peer learning, and building a network to expand swing bed access. These efforts keep patients close to home, improve health outcomes, reduce readmissions, and sustain rural hospitals.

MICHIGAN CENTER for RURAL HEALTH