Health Equity: Decreasing COPD Readmission

**THE PROBLEM**
African-American patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are more likely to be readmitted to the acute care setting within 30 days of discharge than Caucasian patients. At Palmetto Health, a multidisciplinary team (acute care, discharge planning, outpatient care and community health) works to provide an improved continuum of care process; and identify opportunities to reduce disparities, share resources and eliminate socio-determinants.

**THE PROCESS**

**OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED**
- Integrated team for COPD mapping
- Use of Readmission Alert System
- Hire COPD Navigator
- Deploy Community Advocate: interview readmissions, address socio-determinants

**PATIENT SUPPORT**
- Standardize continuum of care from acute care to post home care
- Timely notifications of readmissions
- Timely focus on readmits, liaison between acute care/home care
- Open to discharge visits and support for other needs

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT**
- Immediate identification of clinical needs and resolution
- Timely support and engagement of caregiver when readmissions occur
- Liaison between clinical and non-clinical needs
- Support and liaison to address socio-determinants and navigating healthcare system

**RESULTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>21.61%</td>
<td>17.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>14.45%</td>
<td>13.14%</td>
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**Disparity Rate Reduction Between Groups**
- 2015: 7.96%
- 2016: 4.09%

Palmetto Health
Columbia, South Carolina