



Mission/Vision

Therapeutic Environment

Data Driven process

Competent Staff

Smooth Transitions of Care

Families as Partners

Non-Med Approaches

Physician Support

## 5. HOSPITAL TRANSITIONS PROCESS

### Why the need for a defined hospital admissions process?

Organizations that provide life-giving/life enhancing care to elders with dementia are often concerned when the necessity to send them off to the hospital arises. Because staff have set up a structured environment where they know the resident so well, can anticipate their needs, support their well-being, optimize scheduling practices and routines that favor the resident's needs and ensure proper rest, a trip to the hospital can be a disruption of seismic proportion. Hospital staff, responding to acute conditions, will sometimes initiate the off-label use of antipsychotic meds. For many people living with dementia, it can take weeks, even months to return to their baseline abilities.

This segment of the Change Package considers those things that an organization can do to effectively mitigate the disruption.

### Processes:

Use the accompanying resources to consider ways to prevent the harmful disruption caused by hospitalizations

Establish pre-emptive strategies such as a TIPS team and a BAT team to ensure that residents who present with high-risk care challenges are reviewed monthly

Utilize the free INTERACT Tools (sign in required) at <https://pathway-interact.com/interact-tools/interact-tools-library/interact-version-4-0-tools-for-nursing-homes/>

- Engaging Your Hospitals – Tip Sheets, SNF/NF Capabilities List, SNF/NF – Hospital Transfer Form, SNF/NF – Hospital Data List

Take time to explore the decision guide with families so they might gain an understanding of the care that is possible within your organization

Ensure that well-crafted Advance Directives are in place

### Indicators:

- Staff have special knowledge of each resident and can articulate the care necessary in the event of a change in condition
- Staff know how to call for a BAT team review
- Staff have a sense of confidence that they can handle emergencies and recognize when a hospitalization is necessary

### Resources:

1. Introductory Guidance
2. Hospital Transfer Form
3. [BMJ Open 2017;7:e015257. Dementia-friendly interventions to improve care](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2017-0215257)
4. Interact tools
5. BAT Team