Tool 9: Readmission Risk Tool

**Purpose:** At-a-glance listing of readmission risk factors.

**Description:** This tool is an educational and awareness building tool for frontline staff, cross-continuum teams, and quality improvement leadership to quickly review the numerous factors that lead to risk of readmission. It highlights the fact that narrow targeting strategies will miss numerous patients with these issues.

**Staff:** Hospitalists, nursing, case management, cross-continuum teams.

**Time required:** Quick review and discussion at meeting; post in workrooms.
Tool 9: Readmission Risk

The following is a list of factors that can lead a patient to be at-risk of readmission. This checklist can be used as a teaching tool to raise awareness among clinicians, staff as well as with patients and families. Based on your readmission interviews or hospital and community-specific readmission analyses, you may add additional factors that are prevalent among your patient population. Do not use this checklist to "score" readmission risk: these are all individual risks or needs that should be addressed or mitigated as part of a plan to minimize readmission risk. When patients are viewed from this lens, staff may start to see a majority of patients are at-risk of readmission.

Demographic
- Medicaid adult 18-64
- Medicare fee for service
- Single
- Zip Code (e.g., "hot spot," close to hospital, rural, urban, etc.)
- Lack regular source of care
- Prior ED visits and/or hospitalization in past month

Functional
- Frailty
- Limitations in ADLs (activities of daily living)
- Limitations in IADLs (instrumental activities of daily living)
- Cognitive impairment/poor executive function
- Poor literacy
- Poor numeracy
- Poor health literacy
- Low self-efficacy
- Discharge to skilled nursing facility, regardless of diagnoses
- Discharge to home health care, regardless of diagnoses

Clinical
- Dementia
- Delirium
- Behavioral health diagnoses
- Active substance use
- Chronic condition
- Acute illness
- New diagnosis
- New medication
- High-risk medication
- Complex conditions
- Numerous conditions
- Numerous medications
- Recurrent, known symptoms
- End-of-life trajectory

Social
- Unaddressed goals of care preferences
- Lack social support
- Low income
- Homeless or marginally housed
- Lack reliable transportation
- Newly insured
- Do not have a history of seeking care in ambulatory setting/primary care provider
- Environmental or occupational triggers