

Transitional Care Offers Valuable Option for Patients

By Sandee Carlson, CNS

Whether you have an unexpected illness or a planned surgery, you may find yourself needing additional care when you leave the hospital. Transitional, or “swing bed,” care includes rehab, wound care, IV antibiotics and other types of skilled nursing or therapy following hospitalization. St. Mary’s Hospital of Superior offers patients a special environment to recover and receive the care they need.

Our transitional care team uses a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to help each patient return home as quickly as possible. The team includes nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, social workers, physicians, dietitians, a chaplain, pharmacists, physicians, therapeutic recreation specialists, and a care manager.

We work together with patients and their families to set goals and to help each patient gain the skills they need before returning home. As a care manager, I’m dedicated to ensuring that we develop the best plan of care for each patient.

There are many benefits to this program. Patients in transitional care at St. Mary’s Hospital of Superior receive 24-hour care from a professional, compassionate nursing staff. They have ready access to laboratory and radiology services if needed. Physicians on staff at the Duluth Clinic-Superior are available if a patient’s condition changes.

Patients use transitional care for many situations. It’s intended to help patients who have been hospitalized, and need some additional observation and care before they’re ready to be home on their own. Patient’s families tell us the program gives them peace of mind, as well, and helps with a smooth, speedy recovery.

We offer many of the comforts of home in a hospital setting, including free local telephone service, cable television and computers with Internet access. Many patients tell us they really appreciate the care and compassion they received at St. Mary’s Hospital of Superior. Sometimes, there are even a few tears from patients when it’s time to say good-bye.

Medicare and other insurance providers cover transitional care in most cases. If you are hospitalized and need transitional care, talk to your doctor or social worker. To learn more, you can also call St. Mary’s Hospital of Superior Social Services at (715) 395-5401. We accept patients from hospitals all around the region.