

## September 2023 Barriers to Discharge Report

In hospitals across New Hampshire, there are patients in an inpatient bed medically cleared for discharge but unable to leave the hospital. These lengthy, non-medically necessary hospital stays are caused by a number of **barriers to discharge**. These barriers impact not only patients unable to leave the hospital but also patients whose care may be delayed due to lack of inpatient bed availability. Understanding why patients remain in an acute care setting longer than is medically necessary helps identify areas where improvements can be made to reduce the number of patients affected.

This September 2023 report is a snapshot of all patients on a single day during the first week of the month medically ready to be discharged but could not leave the hospital. This report summarizes the number of patients, how long they have been waiting, where they need to go, and what is causing delays. The data is derived from a survey of case management directors in New Hampshire hospitals. The intent is to provide insight into inefficiencies in the system to aid in policy and other efforts to remove these barriers to care.

### September 2023 Summary



**19** Hospitals Reporting



**8,451** Medically unnecessary or “extra” days spent in the hospital ranging from 1 to **600** days per patient<sup>1</sup>



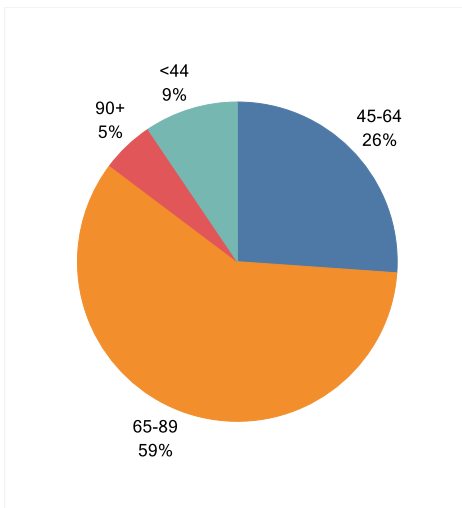
**130** Patients in hospital after medical clearance for discharge



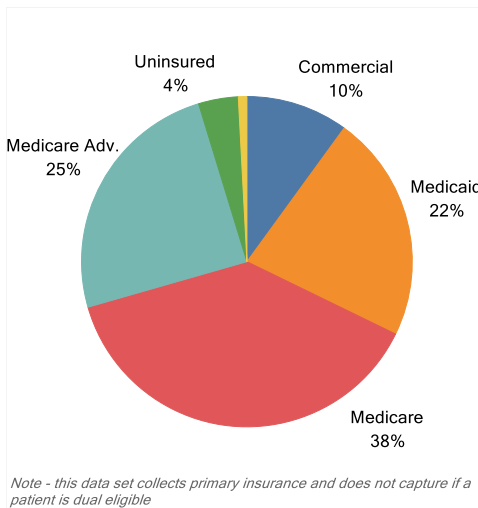
**47** Patients in the ED waiting for an inpatient bed<sup>2</sup>

### Demographics

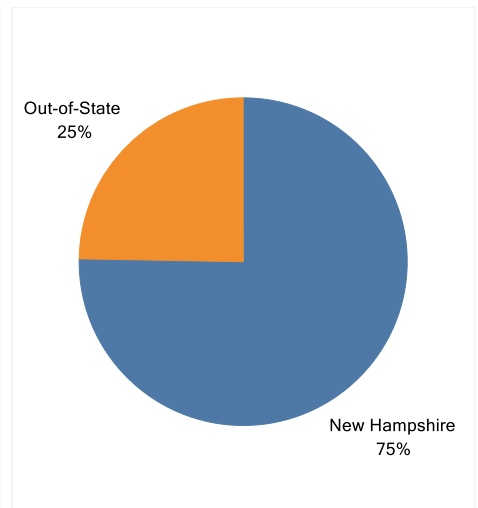
Age Group



Primary Insurance



Primary Residency



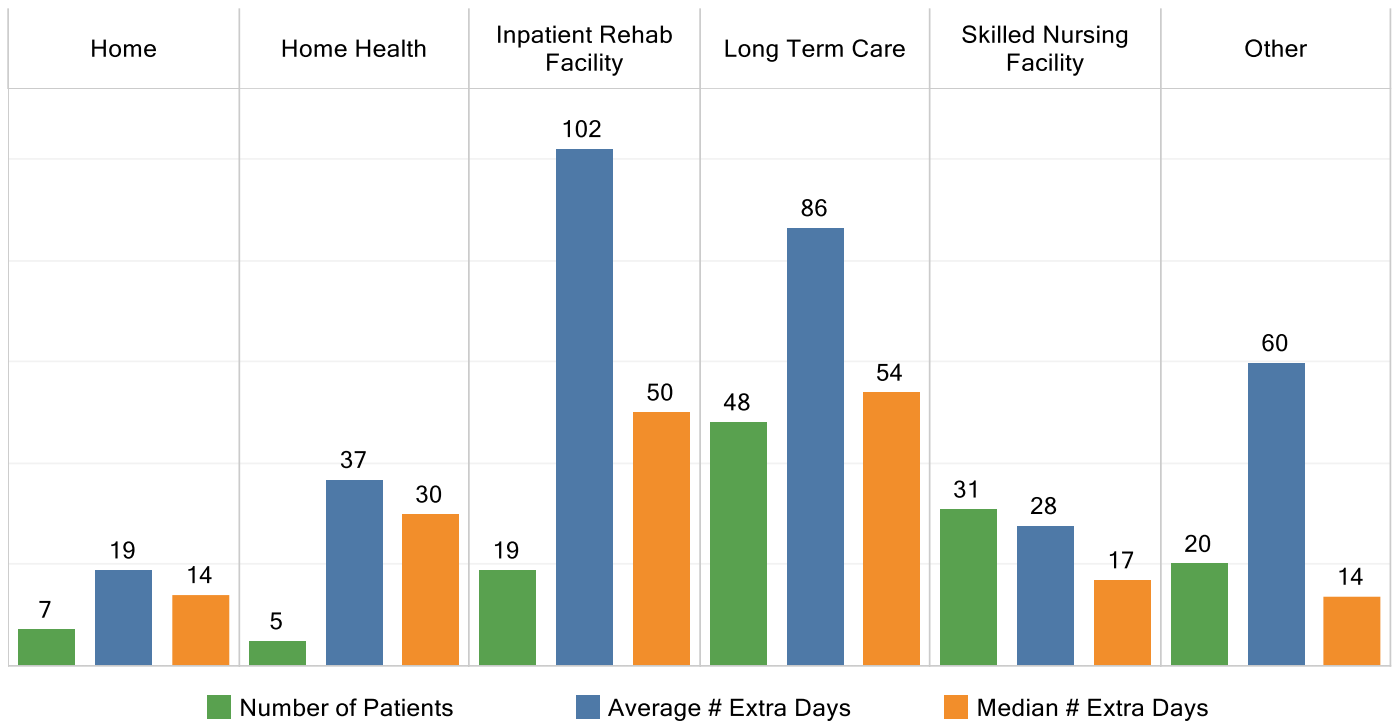
<sup>1</sup> Represents the current, cumulative “extra” days of the 130 patients included in this report.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Juvare. Represents average daily non-behavioral health ED holds among the participating hospitals.

## Discharge Disposition

Hospitals will not discharge a patient until the patient is able to relocate to a setting that will meet their care needs.

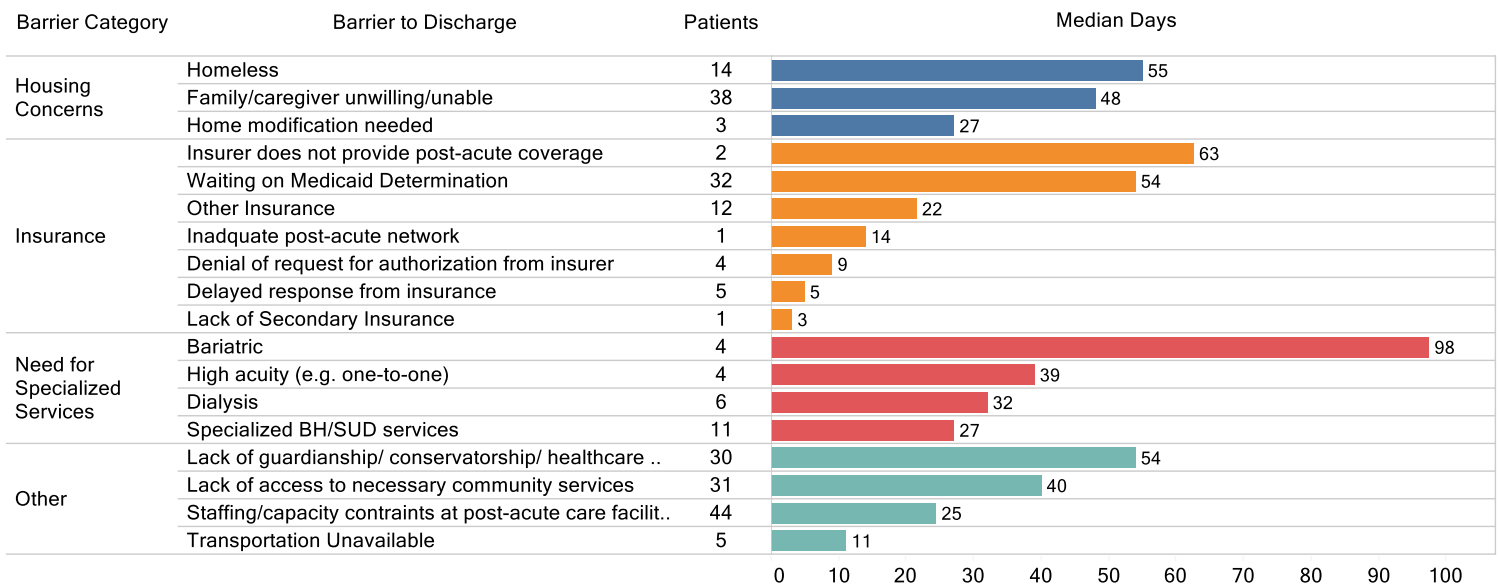
Discharge Disposition



## Barriers to Discharge

Each patient's experience is unique, but the most common barriers to discharge are reported below.  
*Note, patients could be reported as having multiple barriers to discharge.*

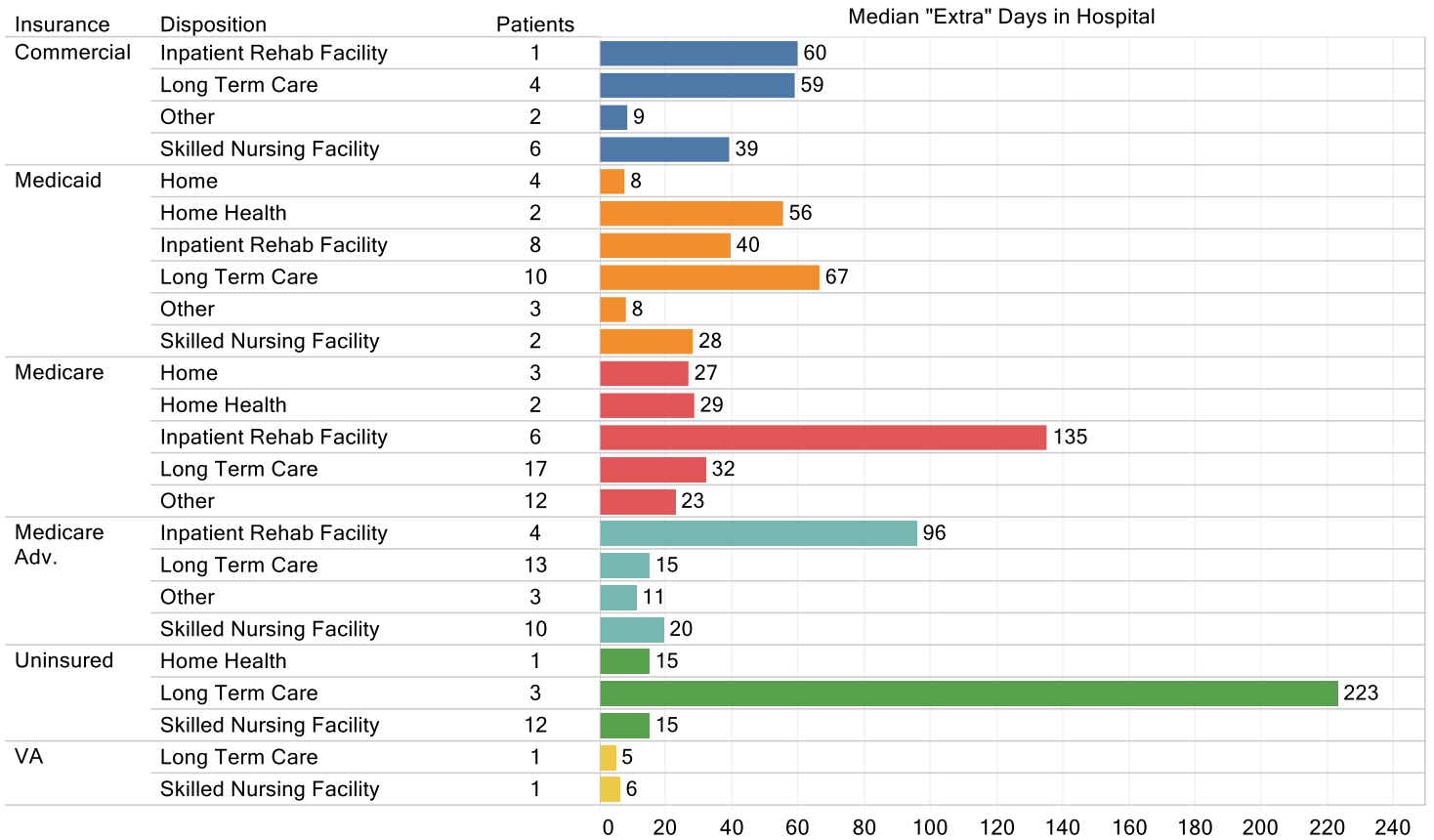
Barriers to Discharge by Median Extra Days in Hospital



## Insurance and Discharge Disposition

A patient's insurance status and associated policies can have an impact on the length of stay at a hospital.

### Insurance and Discharge Disposition



## Patient Abandonment

Hospitals report an increase in "patient abandonment" in which a friend or family member leaves a patient at the Emergency Department and refuses further involvement.

### A Snapshot of Abandoned Patients

