

PREVENT AVOIDABLE DAYS



WHAT ARE AVOIDABLE DAYS?

Avoidable days refer to hospital stays for patients who would benefit from alternate care facilities such as mental health hospitals or long-term nursing care facilities. Due to the lack of these facilities, available beds, and insurance payer delays, hospitals are increasingly the default location for these patients.

Avoidable days, in many cases, are uncompensated and this jeopardizes the availability of beds for patients in medical crisis.

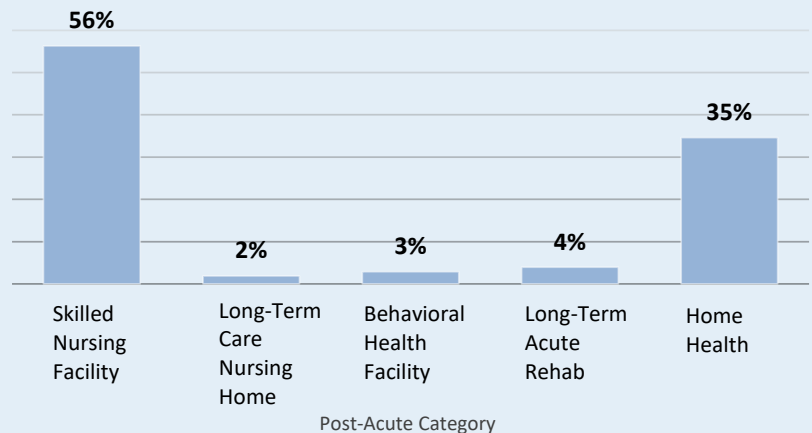
LACK OF SKILLED BEDS CREATES AVOIDABLE DAYS

Skilled nursing care followed by home health services is most needed to serve patients awaiting transfer to a more appropriate facility for the care they need. When hospital beds are filled with patients awaiting transfers, this limits hospital beds for patients who are in acute medical crisis. In Kansas, 100 percent of hospitals surveyed said they had kept patients in their emergency room for extended periods due to a lack of beds caused by patients awaiting a transfer.

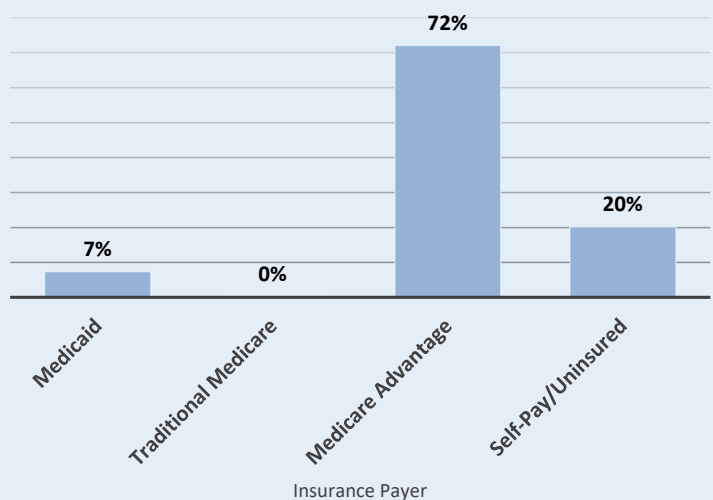
PAYER DENIALS AND DELAYS DRIVE UP COSTS

Medicare Advantage plans are the largest contributor to avoidable days. By denying or delaying transfer to an alternate care facility, payers cause hospitals to become the default care unit and do not reimburse for these avoidable days which drives up uncompensated cost.

Avoidable Days Awaiting Placement



Avoidable Days by Insurance Payer



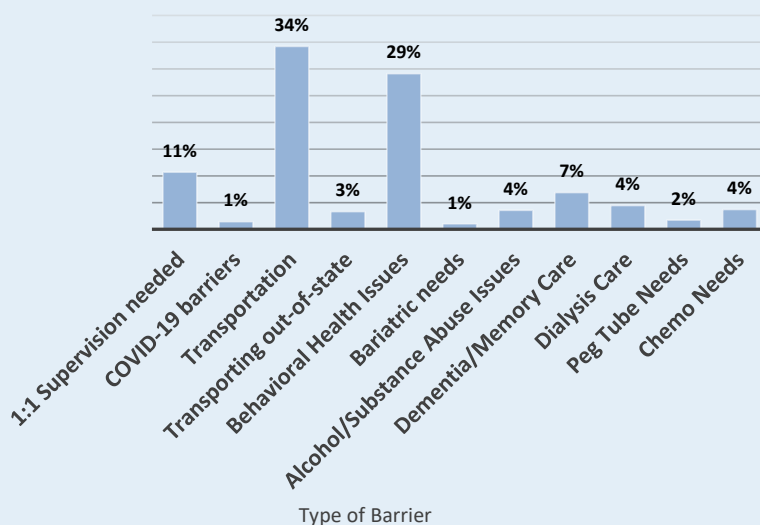
**2024 Kansas
Hospital Data**

**Total Avoidable Days
138,000**

**Total Cost
\$110 Million**



Barriers Hindering Post-Acute Placement



AVOIDABLE DAYS HARM PATIENTS

- When payers deny or delay transfer to skilled care, patients do not receive the therapy and specialized services needed to regain their strength and recover.
- Avoidable delays caused by payers also reduce the amount of hospital beds available to treat patients needing emergent and acute care. This delays care and negatively impacts health outcomes for those patients.
- Smaller facilities are not able to transfer patients needing acute care to a larger facility when the larger facility beds are occupied by patients whose payers won't authorize their timely transfer. These payer practices reduce quality and safety of care.
- Avoidable days hurt community health. Hospitals aren't meant to house long-term patients who would be better served in an alternate care facility.
- Kansas hospitals have limits on the number of patients for which they are licensed and staffed. Avoidable days during busy seasons, when hospitals are at or near capacity, can mean long distance travel to the next hospital for patients in need of essential services.

AVOIDABLE DAYS IMPACT WORKFORCE

Hospitals build initiatives into their programs to keep a workforce engaged and excited about their work. When a system is burdened by red tape, denials and delays, a hospital team can become burned out, disillusioned or decide to seek employment elsewhere.

AVOIDABLE DAYS INCREASE COSTS

Avoidable days contribute to the increasing cost of health care. Hospitals that absorb these costs are financially burdened, which could mean less services and worse health outcomes. Kansas communities are built on the promise of a health care system that is there for them when it's needed. By addressing a comprehensive approach that expedites transfers and curbs delay tactics, Kansans will be better served.



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Sources:
2024 KHA survey
KHA Avoidable Days Survey