



## **St. Mary's Hospital for Children, a Pediatric and Young Adult Skilled Nursing Facility in Queens that is part of St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children**

St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children provides a continuum of care to children and young adults with complex medical conditions and a much-needed source of support and hope to the families who love them. A national leader in intensive rehabilitation, specialized care and special education, we bring big hearts—and advanced technology—to help little patients live happier, healthier lives—at home, in the community or at St. Mary's Hospital for Children, our flagship inpatient skilled nursing facility (SNF) in Bayside, Queens.

The Quality Team at St. Mary's Hospital for Children was already familiar with INTERACT and INTERACT Tools, having been one of the first Skilled Nursing Facilities in NY to participate in an initial Greater New York Hospital Association pilot of Interact NY project. With the launch of DSRIP in 2014, St. Mary's joined the Nassau Queens PPS as partner SNF and began to work closely with the Nassau team to determine the best way to modify and implement the INTERACT tools for a pediatric population.

*According to Ms. Hess, "our pediatric population is so medically fragile and complex that it is often not possible to avoid emergency transfers to the acute hospitals; however, use of the INTERACT tools has made us much more aware of the number and type of transfers we experience. Through our DSRIP partnership with NUMC, we have been able to develop more advanced tools to keep track of the reasons for transfer in order to discern patterns that might help us avoid some of these transfers moving forward."*

St. Mary's staff from Medicine, Nursing, Quality, and IT all worked together internally and also collaborated with Ms. Joyce Nolasco, CPHIMS, MSN, RN-BC, the Clinical Liaison Post-Acute-Long Term Care at NuHealth, to create tools that were "INTERACT-LIKE" and more appropriate for the pediatric population served (e.g. the SBAR and the SNF Capabilities list were both adapted). The existing resident electronic medical record was also altered to include new transfer capture screens and a "change in practice" was implemented which now requires the clinician to populate the resident's electronic chart with information about the patient's condition, reason for transfer and care coordination info whenever a change in condition takes place.

We are grateful for the NUMC partnership and teamwork that have helped us achieve our joint objective of keeping kids out of the hospital in order to lessen their risk of re-hospitalization, moving toward the ultimate goal of getting them home sooner.

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