



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 8, 2020 at 5 PM

### **CONTACT**

Katie Wood

856-365-9510, ext. 3012

[kwood@camdenhealth.org](mailto:kwood@camdenhealth.org)

### **New study shows importance of looking beyond healthcare to serve people with complex needs**

*Study published today in the New England Journal of Medicine evaluates impact of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers' care management program on hospital readmissions*

Camden, NJ — Results from a randomized controlled trial published today in the New England Journal of Medicine highlight the importance of strengthening community networks—including social services, behavioral health, public health, community-based organizations, and government agencies—to serve people with complex health and social needs.

From 2014–2017, the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers (Camden Coalition) partnered with researchers affiliated with J-PAL North America to measure the impact of the Camden Coalition's care management program (Camden Core Model) on hospital readmission rates. The study showed similar readmission rates in the control and intervention groups at 180 days. The study also found that the Camden Core Model was associated with increased SNAP participation.

The Camden Core Model pairs interprofessional care management teams with individuals who have patterns of high hospital utilization, chronic medical conditions, and complex social needs. Together, teams work to meet patients' self-defined goals. The Camden Core Model is among a number of interventions designed by the Camden Coalition to address the needs of people who experience medical, behavioral health, and social challenges.

"This study confirms what our care teams see every day—care management that focuses solely on healthcare is insufficient," said Kathleen Noonan, chief executive officer of the Camden Coalition. "People with lifetimes of trauma and complexity are best supported by high-quality resources in the community and a healthcare environment designed to meet their needs."

Amy Finkelstein, J-PAL's co-scientific director and principal investigator of the study, said, "The Camden Coalition had the vision and courage to rigorously evaluate their program and apply those learnings to improving their work. We need hundreds more organizations like the Camden Coalition, who are willing to be active learning organizations and embed evaluation into their programs."

While the Camden Coalition continues to examine the impact of the Camden Core Model on additional outcome measures and sub-populations, they also spearhead partnerships designed to reduce barriers to care and curb unnecessary hospital utilization among those with the most complex needs. Their 7-Day Pledge initiative, which supports primary care providers so they can more easily see patients within a week of hospital discharge, has shown promise in reducing readmissions. These efforts, along with insights from the study, are contributing to a more effective, evidence-based field of complex care.



If you would like more information or to schedule an interview with the Camden Coalition's chief executive officer Kathleen Noonan, please contact Katie Wood, chief of staff, at 856-365-9510, ext. 3012.

*The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers is a multidisciplinary nonprofit organization working to improve care for people with complex health and social needs in Camden, NJ and across the country. To learn more, visit [camdenhealth.org](http://camdenhealth.org)*

###