

**Southeast Community Health System** 

**Avoidable Emergency Department Visits** 

Not-for-profit healthcare system Over 300 beds

# Avoidable emergency department visits hike up healthcare costs

- Emergency department visits are significantly more expensive than those provided in a primary care setting
- Many ED visits are avoidable, meaning that the patient's condition did not require immediate care in a hospital setting



### Southeast Community Health System



#### Goal:

## Reduce avoidable emergency visits

Lower the number of ED visits occurring within 30 days of an inpatient visit



#### **Emmi**Transition

### **General Discharge Series**

2 CALLS + 2 MULTIMEDIA PROGRAMS | 4 DAYS

Period: January 2016 - December 2018

#### Patient population:

• 3,208 discharged patients

#### **Series highlights:**

- Reinforces discharge instructions
- Monitors adherence
- Reports status back to care team

"Most people need a follow-up appointment after they leave the hospital. Do you already have one set up?"



"No, I don't"

### Southeast Community Health System

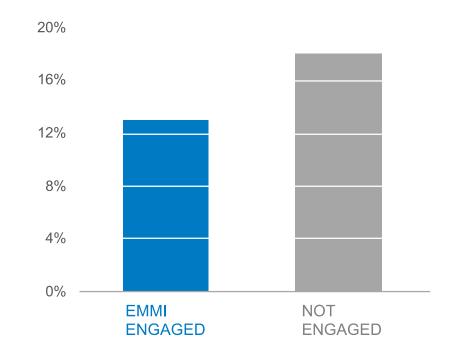
#### STUDY RESULTS



Reduced avoidable emergency visits

Patients that engaged with Emmi were associated with **26% fewer avoidable ED visits\*** than those who did not

#### Avoidable ED visit rate



\*99% confidence level



### Southeast Community Health System

#### STUDY RESULTS



Drove associated cost savings

Reducing avoidable ED visits led to potential cost avoidance of \$88,949 per 1,000 patients discharged\*

	EMMI ENGAGED		NOT ENGAGED
Preventable ED visits	2,262		946
Total discharges	17,299		5,340
Preventable ED visits per 1,000 discharges	130.8	VS	177.2



<sup>\*</sup>based on Health Care Cost Institute estimate (\$1,917 average cost / ED visit)