MEDICAL RESPITE CARE: DEMONSTRATED COST SAVINGS

FACT SHEET
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What is medical respite care?
Medical respite care is acute and post-acute medical care for homeless persons who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but who are not ill enough to be hospitalized. Unlike “respite” for caregivers, “medical respite” is short-term residential care that allows homeless individuals the opportunity to rest in a safe environment while accessing medical care and other supportive services. These programs are housed in a variety of settings including freestanding facilities, homeless shelters, nursing homes, and transitional housing. Medical respite care meets the post-hospital recuperative care needs for people who are homeless while reducing public costs associated with frequent hospital utilization.

Homeless patients who are discharged to a medical respite program experience 50 percent fewer hospital readmissions within 90 days of being discharged than patients who are discharged to their own care.¹

![Average Number of Inpatient Days, Emergency Department Visits and Outpatient Clinic Visits by Homeless Patients during the 12-Month Follow-Up Period after Hospital Discharge](chart)


Demonstrated cost savings from medical respite programs

- Los Angeles, CA  $3 million total annual savings for hospitals²
- Portland, OR  $3.5 million total savings over three years for one hospital³
- Cincinnati, OH  $6.2 million total annual savings for three hospitals and the community⁴

REFERENCES
2. JWCH Institute, Inc. | www.jwchinstitute.org | Contact: Chief Medical Officer Paul Gregerson, MD
4. Center for Respite Care | www.homelessrespite.org | Contact: Executive Director Mary Beth Meyer