



Swingbed

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What is Swingbed?

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*By Mary Gamble, BS
Director of Social Services*

Charles G. is an independent man who has lived on a farm all his life. Charles is in his 70's and has always been active and taken care of his family. As Charles aged, he began to have problems with one of his knees. His mobility declined and his pain increased. Charles finally gave in and scheduled his knee replacement at a large hospital in St. Louis. His surgeon explained that it is a common procedure and he would only be hospitalized a few days. The plan was for Charles to return home and begin outpatient Physical Therapy at Washington County Memorial Hospital. This sounded good to Charles. He has had surgeries before and he knew the routine. After Charles' surgery, he was in significant pain and was not able to do as much for himself, as he thought he would. It had been several years since he had surgery, and he didn't remember it being this hard to bounce back. Three days after his surgery, he had a decision to make. He knew he would not be able to take care of his farm and himself, in his current condition. He has a wife at home, but she too is limited in how much she can help. Charles spoke to a family member who is familiar with the Swingbed

*"Prevention....the
key to better
health."*

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What is Swingbed?

...continued

“Sometimes surgery is hard to bounce back from”

Program and sought help. It was suggested that his Discharge Planner at the hospital in St. Louis, contact the Washington County Memorial Hospital Swingbed Coordinator to make a referral. Charles met the criteria for admission (established by Medicare) to the Swingbed Program. The referral was made and arrangements for transfer were underway. Charles came to the Swingbed Program. He received Physical Therapy and wound care for his surgical site. After a couple of weeks, Charles was doing much better and able to do more on his own. Charles was able to safely discharge to his own home and continue Physical Therapy on an outpatient basis. Charles was very grateful that Washington County Memorial Hospital offers such a quality comprehensive rehabilitation program right here in his home town.

Swingbed Defined

Swingbed is an extended hospital stay program. People who are recovering from an illness or procedure, who are not quite ready to go home yet, but don't meet criteria for acute hospitalization, may need Swingbed. Once a patient has had 3 consecutive acute care nights, has the appropriate insurance and meets certain eligibility requirements (established by Medicare) the Discharge Planner can contact the Washington County Memorial Hospital Swingbed Coordinator to arrange for a possible transfer to the program.

Getting you back in the Swing of Life.



Swingbed Services

Services provided in this program:

IV therapy
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy
Respiratory Therapy
Wound Care
Dietary Consult/Instruction
Social Services
Activities
Discharge Planning
Post-Operative Care
Skilled Nursing



To Be Healthy is To Be Heard...We Are Listening.™

Q&A and Contact Info

If you have any questions about the Swingbed Program, please call Washington County Memorial Hospital and speak with the Swingbed Coordinator, at 573-438-5451, ext. 241.

Washington County Memorial Hospital

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