

Transcript for Care Transitions news story on WAFB-TV Channel 9, Baton Rouge, LA - June 4, 2009

Donna Britt (anchor): There's a new program tonight aimed at keeping seniors and others on Medicare out of the hospital. It's called the Care transitions project, and if all goes as planned, the project will do more than reduce government healthcare costs. Phil Rainier explains in tonight's 9 HealthLine report.

Phil Rainier (reporter): Diabetes patient Margie Biggs was recently hospitalized with pneumonia, before going home Anna Broussard was assigned to be her health coach.

Anna Broussard (LHCR QI specialist): We discuss their medications, what they're for. The other important thing is to make sure that they have a primary care physician, and if they do we make sure they have an appointment with the primary care physician before they leave the hospital.

Phil Rainier: Broussard works for the Louisiana Health Care Review, a nonprofit group implementing the care transitions project. By working closely with patients before and after hospital care, Medicare thinks it can help people like Margie avoid being hospitalized again with the same costly and potentially life threatening conditions.

Dr. Paul Murphree (Medical Director of Patient Safety & Quality for Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center): The goal is to intervene a little bit earlier before things get out of hand.

Phil Rainier: For Margie, that means knowing the early symptoms of pneumonia and getting treatment before she's so sick she has to go to the hospital or worse. And health coach Anna Broussard is there to help.

Margie Biggs (patient): She checks in on me all the time – yes, it helps.

Phil Rainier: Over a period of nine weeks, Broussard's coached 80 patients. Only one has had to be readmitted to the hospital. With HealthLine, Phil Rainier, WAFB 9 News.

