

New Hampshire Hospitals Face a Difficult 2025

Exceptional circumstances are converging, making the job of New Hampshire hospitals and caregivers incredibly challenging.

HIGH DEMAND

Demand for services has held occupancy rates at extraordinary levels, leaving little room for patients seeking care. Limited bed capacity results in patients needing to board in the Emergency Department (ED) as they wait for appropriate placement. Each day in New Hampshire, an average of 114 ED patients were awaiting an available hospital bed.¹

SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO DISCHARGE CREATING A BOTTLENECK

Many patients remain in the hospital longer than necessary because they cannot be safely discharged to an appropriate setting based on various “barriers” to discharge. These patients fill hospital beds needed for acute care leading to longer wait times in the Emergency Department or resulting in patients receiving care further from home.²

*Based on a single-day study in June 2024



FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Hospitals are facing immense financial pressures, threatening the viability of our health care system. More than one third of nonprofit acute care hospitals reported a negative margin ranging from -0.7% to -9.9%.⁴

OTHER CHALLENGES

Issues outside of a hospital's control can have major implications on care delivery. Some recent examples include:

Supply Chain Issues: The Baxter IV solution shortage caused by Hurricane Helene.

Cybersecurity Disruptions: The Change Healthcare cyberattack stopped the processing and payments of claims for months at many NH hospitals.

Payor Behaviors: The payment practices of payors, such as payment delays, requirements for extra documentation, prior authorization denials and limited access to resolve claims questions leads to increased hospital administrative burden to ensure appropriate care for patients and timely payments.

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Workforce shortages have led to high vacancy rates across all hospital departments including nurses (14%), Surgical Technicians (20%), and Respiratory Therapists (22%). These vacancies impact hospitals' ability to care for patients and keep beds staffed.³

SOURCES

1) Source: Juvare. Data represents 10/1/24-12/31/24. 88% occupancy rate based on staffed beds and includes non-behavioral health Emergency Department holds.

2) The 7,455 patient days is based on a 1-day snapshot. See [June 2024 Summary and Trend of Medically Cleared Patients in New Hampshire Hospitals Face Barriers to Discharge](#) for details.

3) NHHA Hospital Vacancy rates. October 2024

4) FY23 audited financials by 23 participating hospitals reported to NHHA.