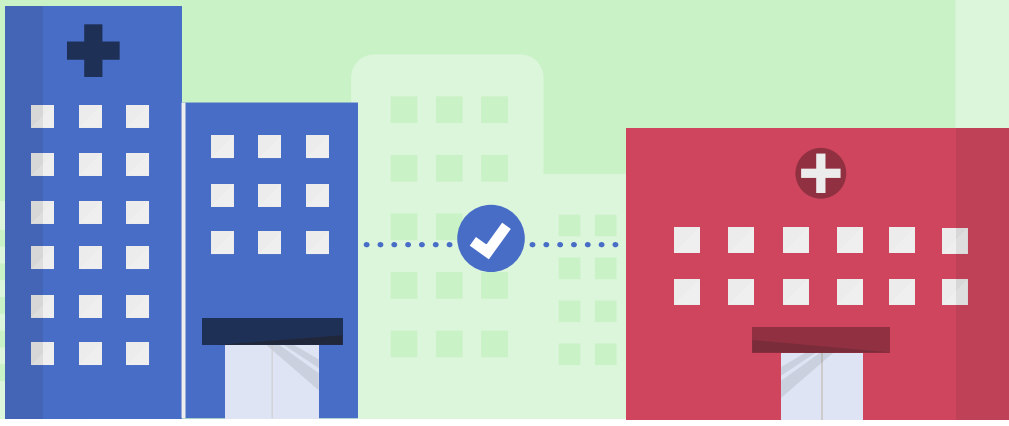


# 6 Recommended Practices for Strengthening Care Transitions

Poorly coordinated care transitions from hospitals to other care settings waste billions of dollars each year! Consider following these best practices to improve care transitions and delivery of safe, high-quality care.



## 01 Develop Policies and Procedures



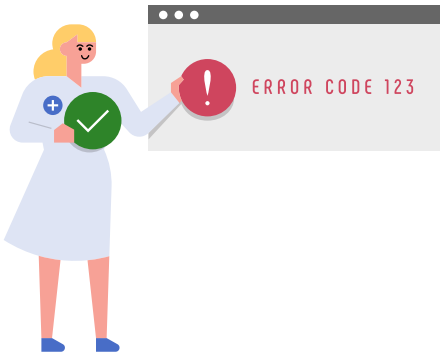
Create policies and procedures that establish protocol and standards for every type of transition. Train anyone with care transition responsibilities at least annually and whenever policies and procedures undergo updates.

## 02 Create a Care Transitions Task Force

Assemble a task force responsible for continually assessing your organization's existing care transition processes, policies, and procedures. Ensure all assessments are data driven so improvement projects are supported by facts and figures, not just anecdotes.



## 03 Understand Root Causes of Ineffective Care Transitions

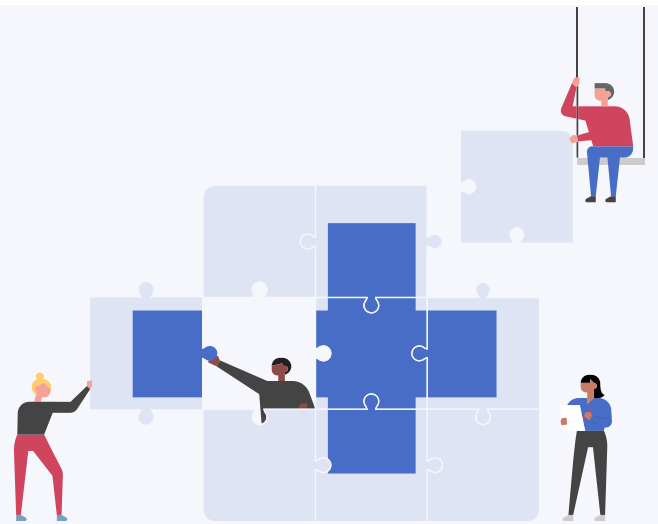


The Joint Commission reports that **communication breakdowns**, **patient education breakdowns**, and **accountability breakdowns** are common causes of care transition breakdowns. If you are having trouble deciding where to target improvement efforts, consider these three areas as good starting points.

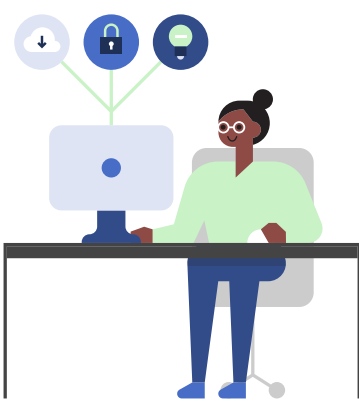
## 04 Learn from Others

Seeking inspiration on how to improve your care transitions? Emulate the impressive work of other organizations, including the following:

- [Eastern Virginia Care Transitions Partnership](#)
- [Stratis Health](#)
- [Mercy Health](#)
- [University of California, San Francisco](#)
- [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center](#)



## 05 Tap into the Power of Technology



Innovative information technology companies have launched a variety of solutions in response to the growing demand for assistance with care transitions. Here are a few to consider:

- [Trekkit Health](#)
- [edoclist](#)
- [Kolkin Sign Out Software](#)

## 06 Incorporate Resources

The government, national associations, healthcare organizations, and others have developed resources to assist efforts in improving care transitions and made them accessible online.

Here are a few:

- [Whole-Person Transitional Care Planning](#)
- [Discharge Process Checklist](#)
- [Advancing Effective Communication, Cultural Competence, and Patient- and Family-Centered Care: A Roadmap for Hospitals](#)
- [Next Step in Care](#)
- [BOOSTing \(Better Outcomes for Older adults through Safe Transitions\) Care Transitions Resource Room](#)
- [Coordinated-Transitional Care \(C-TraC\) Toolkit](#)

