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## **PRHI opens sixth turbo-charged clinic**

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Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative has opened another turbo-charged primary care center, the sixth such clinic that is designed to curb hospital readmissions by focusing on patients with chronic medical problems.

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown on Monday held a grand opening reception for its Primary Care Resource Center. The PCRC is open to patients at high risk of hospital readmission, including ones with severe breathing problems, heart failure and those who have suffered a heart attack.

“Many patients are discharged without understanding their illnesses or treatment plans,” PRHI Chief Medical Officer Dr. Keith Kanel said in a prepared statement. “There are so many places where problems that can be prevented are missed, leading to emergency room visits and unplanned readmissions.”

PRHI is providing funding, quality improvement training and coaching and clinical expertise to Conemaugh and five other hospitals as part of a \$10.4 million federal grant. PRHI estimates Medicare savings of some \$41 million are possible over the three-year life of the grant through use of the hospital-based primary care centers.

Medicare is in the second year of penalizing hospitals for preventable readmissions by cutting reimbursement up to 1 percent. The program was part of the Affordable Care Act.

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