

Illumination Foundation's Recuperative Care is one of 85 nationwide, and the only one in the County of Orange. The program was piloted in 2008 with several key partners and has grown to serve over 3,000 clients.

Illumination Foundation has expanded their 20-bed recuperative care center into a 45-bed center that will provide a more robust emphasis on behavioral health, such as mental health and/or substance use counseling.

1. What is recuperative care?

It's an Illumination Foundation program designed specifically to care for homeless patients who do not have a place to recuperate after discharge. This program ensures that patients will have a place to stay off of the streets to properly recover and prevent a return to the emergency room.

2. Why does recuperative care exist?

Hospitals face the challenging task of discharging a homeless patient who lacks a safe environment to recover. For years, this resulted in patients discharging to the streets with no other option. With no proper place to recover from injury or illness, these patients would constantly end up back in the emergency room. A need for a program to decrease recidivism of the homeless became apparent, and Illumination Foundation created Recuperative Care to help mitigate this issue and provide a safe discharge option for hospitals.

3. What services are offered at the Midway City Recuperative Care Center?

While at our Recuperative Care, clients will receive intensive case management, connections to social services, transportation to and from medical appointments, and potential permanent housing. It is a client-based program, individualized to fit the needs of every individual. There will also be an emphasis on behavioral health services, including but not limited to individual and group counseling sessions.

4. What is the admission criteria?

The client must be homeless per the hospital's definition, the client must be independent and able to move around on their own, and the client must be alert and oriented.

5. What is provided medically for clients at recuperative care?

An initial intake will be performed by medical personnel upon client's arrival to assess what medical needs he/she will need to follow up with. Medical staff will educate him/her on his/her current medication regimen, medical or mental health conditions, and follow up with any continuum of care the client may need. *Please note: we are a social model program, and not a medical facility.*

6. How long do clients stay at recuperative care?

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The length of stay will be determined by the hospital or facility/program, as it is based on the client's medical condition and at times social service needs. The average stay at recuperative care is 10-14 days.

7. What happens when client's length of stay ends?

The case management team only has the time the hospital allotted to connect client with the social services they need and enter the client into the coordinated entry system. Once in the county system, whether or not the client can be housed is dependent on their vulnerability and the availability of housing throughout the county. Of all the clients that come through our recuperative care program, 46% get connected to transitional or permanent housing.

8. Must clients be 100% sober to be referred to recuperative care?

No. Illumination Foundation is a harm-reduction facility, meaning we will work with the clients to reduce their use in a way that is safe and reasonable. Harm reduction is a public health philosophy and intervention that seeks to reduce the harms associated with drug use and ineffective drug policies.

9. Does CalOptima cover recuperative care?

CalOptima reimburses contracted hospitals up to 15 days at \$150 per day for patients who are discharged from Emergency Room or In-patient. Hospitals must be under CalOptima contract to receive the reimbursement.

10. Do the clients have to pay for recuperative care?

No, costs are covered by the hospital from which they were referred from.

