The Problem

- The John & Nettie Mooney Library is the patient education library in Gundersen Health System that provides patient health and wellness information to people in our health care communities.
- Our collection development policy does not allow us to purchase fiction books or non-fiction books outside the health purview. We were getting requests for this type of material from hospitalized patients.
- We established the Mooney Little Free Library® to help with offering patients and family members books that would be available to them for their leisure reading. However, this does not guarantee any specific selection as it is run on donations.
- How can we get leisure reading in the hands of hospitalized patients to help in their healing process?

The Solution

- We collaborate with the La Crosse Public Library to allow patients who are hospitalized at least three days, to request books from the public library.
- Patients request books through the Mooney Library. We borrow them through a Mooney Library account at the public library. The public library’s homebound delivery staff bring the books to us at Gundersen. We take the books to the patient.
- Materials are returned to Mooney Library. The patient may also take them home and return them to us in a provided postage paid envelope. The Mooney staff then returns the materials to the public library.

Getting the word out

- Books to Beds™ is publicized through our weekly newsletter and our internal website. Our goal is to inform employees of the program so they will suggest it to their patients.
- Books to Beds™ is also connected with the hospital’s GetWellNetwork® which is Gundersen’s interactive patient education and entertainment platform. Books to Beds™ has its own promotion space on the site to allow patients to learn about the service and to make book requests.

Results

- The program started with a soft-launch in October 2018. Since that time 11 patrons have checked out 29 books.
  - Low statistics expected since only serving patients with stays of three days or longer.
  - Collaborating with the public library is a powerful way for our patient education library to leverage Gundersen’s strategic plan.
  - Offer an outstanding experience of care
  - Use partnerships and relationships to elevate the health of our community.

- The collaboration has increased the referral process between the two libraries involved and the materials available to patients.
  - Continued promotion to targeted patient units
  - We are optimistic utilization will increase with continued promotion.

*Books to Beds™ is a registered trademark of Gundersen Health System.*