



# Petersburg Medical Center

Home Health Report January 2024

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## **Workforce Wellness**

The Home Team continues to be fully staffed. Currently two nurses are assigned to Home Health and the third splits time between the school (the school nurse and Adult Day program). Our Home Health Aide assists with HH patients, helps in facilitating Adult Day Program activities and will begin working with community participants under the SIHS grant. The clinical staff strives to meet daily to review caseloads, patient acuity and any to discuss any immediate department needs. Twice a month the therapy department joins us for case review and coordination (IDT meetings.) These are documented in the patient electronic medical record and have improved continuity of care. Of note, it is also a regulatory standard that nursing case conferences with any therapies at least every two weeks. Once a month we have an all-staff meeting. Wellness and health are a priority here in Home Health. Several members continue to utilize the community center gym. Staff are encouraged to take their “wellness walks” and there is a strong focus on work/life balance. We celebrate monthly birthdays as a team. Staff are encouraged to use breacktime as an opportunity to get outside, though safety is always our first concern. Staff were recently in serviced on using weather-related safety gear.

## **Community Engagement**

The priority of this department continues to be reaching as many community members as possible. Whether through traditional home health services, program extensions or working directly with other community agencies. Our patient navigator alone has made 350 community member contacts in the past year. Ongoing projects include: partnering with Mountain View Manor, waiver and care coordinating services, and assistance with the quality programs throughout the hospital. Also, we continue to work with the clinic, finance, and IT on the remote home monitoring system that will better meet the needs of our community. We were excited to open the doors of the adult day program, The Cedar Social Club. We currently have five regular participants. In our current space at PIA we cannot service more than that at any given time. When the new space at PIA is ready we will be able to handle up to 19 participants at once. In this program we provide social opportunities, a hot meal, personal care, transportation, and an array of activities. We are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for this program. We partnered with Beat the Odds and were granted money for a “voucher program.” We have a wonderful person who provides housekeeping services for those who have been impacted by a cancer diagnosis. All funds were spent. Members of the home health team continue to participate in the Share Coalition meetings as well as the newly formed southeast Regional Elderly Coalition. One Home Health staff member is a member of the local EMS squad.

## **Patient Centered Care**

The clinical staff here in Home Health continue to go above and beyond providing support and care to the patients we serve. Though we do not yet offer traditional Hospice, we recently have had several end-of-life patients under our care. The nursing staff have been working to create a standard order set that will be presented to the medical staff soon. The kindness and respect, along with strong clinical skills, offered to these patients and their families is exceptional. These are not easy cases and often require the staff to work outside regular hours. Often the primary nurse volunteers to cover the patient until their death for continuity of care. More often, it’s simply because they want to.

## **Facility**

The home health department recently moved to the PIA building. We have space for the home health office, a storage unit for our supplies and lending closet and a space for the adult day program. We are adjusting to our new space.

## **Financial Wellness**

Home Health continues to have some financial challenges. This is related to several things related to decreased referrals, decreased reimbursement, and increased acuity patient care and in-home needs. To counter this, we obtained an MOA with the school system and are now providing a nurse to manage school nursing needs for 24+ hours each week. PMC receives reimbursement for these hours. Adding the adult day program will not result in a need for significant staffing increases. Instead, we are utilizing the current staffing and plan to add positions as needed. Our half-time school nurse will oversee the adult day program as well. It is our hope to add a part-time recreation/driver soon. This will be in lieu of a second home health aide. All staff in home health understand that they may be asked to cover in the adult day program as needed. The HH team has played an integral part in admissions to LTC. In addition, our quality nurse provides support to LTC and assists in managing the quality needs within the PMC community. The patient navigator works across departments and in the community to provide support and resources. She will be onsite January 18-26. Ongoing projects include-partnering with Mountain View Manor, Waiver and care coordinating services.

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