



# Petersburg Medical Center

Home Health Report October 2024

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## **Workforce Wellness**

The Home Team has had many changes in the past few months. We have hired a full-time RN and our travel CNA has decided to commit permanently to Petersburg and has transitioned to permanent status in an expanded role. Laura Holder RN remains the permanent manager of the department. Current staff include 1 travel nurse, 1 new hire permanent nurse, 1 new hire permanent CNA/clerical assistant, and adult day activities assistant. The ancillary staff, billing, quality and patient navigator all remain stable. Twice weekly “huddles” for clinical staff are ongoing to review caseloads, patient acuity, and any immediate department needs. This also helps to improve patient care and creates cohesiveness among staff. 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. We celebrate monthly birthdays as a team. We are committed to supporting staff with ongoing training that benefits our department and community. Two nurses will be attending the wound care conference in Anchorage (Oct 21-25, 2024). These skills will be valuable for patient care in and out of our department.

## **Community Engagement**

The priority of this department is to reach as many community members as possible. Whether through traditional home health services, program extensions or working directly with other community agencies. Ongoing projects include- partnering with Mountain View Manor, waiver and care coordinating services, and assistance with the quality programs throughout the hospital. The Healthsnap program has started for patients within the community and has been well received. We have initiated our “soft launch” programming in adult day in our new space within the PIA building. This collaboration has been integral to the success of this important outreach respite program. We have recently received a 3-year funding grant for the Adult Day program, and we look forward to expanding services using this grant.

## **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 continue to provide in-home care for end-of-life patients under our care. The kindness and respect along with strong clinical skills offered to these patients and their families is exceptional. This is an area of focus for expansion of our programs in the region both for meeting community needs, but also financial sustainability for the department as a whole.

## **Facility**

The home health department is fortunate to have a space within the PIA building that works well for our initial launch of adult day. PIA also houses our storage room for DME and the administrative office for home health. This space is a great fit for our department, and we appreciate PIA for the opportunity to work out of their building. This collaboration continues to be beneficial for community outreach and program sustainability.

## **Financial Wellness**

Home Health continues to have some financial challenges, but we have seen census stabilization over the last quarter and with the help of travel nurses we have recently had 27 admissions over the last four months. Our internal goal is to maintain a census of 22, currently we sit at 23 patients in the community. 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 into the community to provide support and resources. Ongoing projects include- partnering with Mountain View Manor, Waiver and care coordinating services, including the potential of an adult day program and the opportunity to provide respite care. We continue to see positive results from these efforts.

**Submitted by:** Laura Holder, RN, Home Health Manager

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