



# Petersburg Medical Center

Nursing Department Report March 20, 2023

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## **Workforce Wellness**

CNA staffing has remained adequate to meet the needs of our residents and patients. We have relied on 2-3 travelers throughout the winter and are beginning to need fewer as our permanent staffing has stabilized. We have one person who completed the CNA course and will be testing next week. It has been difficult to recruit new people to this role. We are planning to offer the CNA class to the high school next year.

Our nurse staffing has also relied on 2-3 travelers to ensure we have staff to take care of those who need our care. We are increasing the number of travelers to 4-6 for the next several months as we have two staff with extended leaves planned. We are thankful that we have been able to secure strong, competent nurses to fill these positions until our staff return.

We have two UAA students who will graduate at the beginning of May and will begin precepting with staff shortly thereafter, so our long-term projection will be a drastic decrease in the number of RN travel nurses.

## **Community Engagement**

We are waiting for our results from the recent LTC survey. While we know the survey will find that there are a few areas to improve, we were told that the surveyors felt it was a good survey and that the care they saw was “exemplary.” It is wonderful to have our care validated from outside sources.

We have had several opportunities to work with outside agencies over the past 6 months in unusual and high-pressured situations. We have forged and enhanced relationships that have been beneficial to all involved. Alaska is a large state but a small community.

We are so excited to have begun offering endoscopy clinics once again in partnership with a fantastic surgical team from SEARHC. We had two successful clinics, serving nearly 40 people and are primed for more. We have a temporary delay due to decreased availability of the surgeon and anesthesia provider. Offering regular clinics is a top priority for PMC.

## **Patient Centered Care**

As education is a top priority for PMC, we have worked hard to improve our staff’s readiness in multiple areas over the past 6 months.

We had 11 nurses attend the Basic Life Support for Obstetrics (BLSO) in Wrangell, which was a fantastic class, with lots of realistic simulations that allowed staff to be prepared for unscheduled deliveries in Petersburg. One of our nurses said it was “hands down the best class” she’s ever taken.

Dr. Hess, Dr. Hulebak and I attended the CALS class (Comprehensive Advanced Life Support) and came away with so many practical ideas on how to improve our emergency care at PMC. We learned and practiced procedures and worked with equipment that has already concretely improved the care that we give. We have implemented new equipment and supplies and have additional staff attending the class in April.

Katrina Hoffman taught a fantastic class on caring for patients and their families during the dying process from her vast experience as a Hospice Nurse Practitioner in October. Nearly all the PMC nurses were able to participate, thanks to support from Beat the Odds.

In January, a team from Airlift Northwest came to Petersburg to teach our providers and nurses how to better utilize our ventilator for invasive and non-invasive ventilation. The instructor was incredible and was able to explain things in a way that many of us had an “aha” moment.

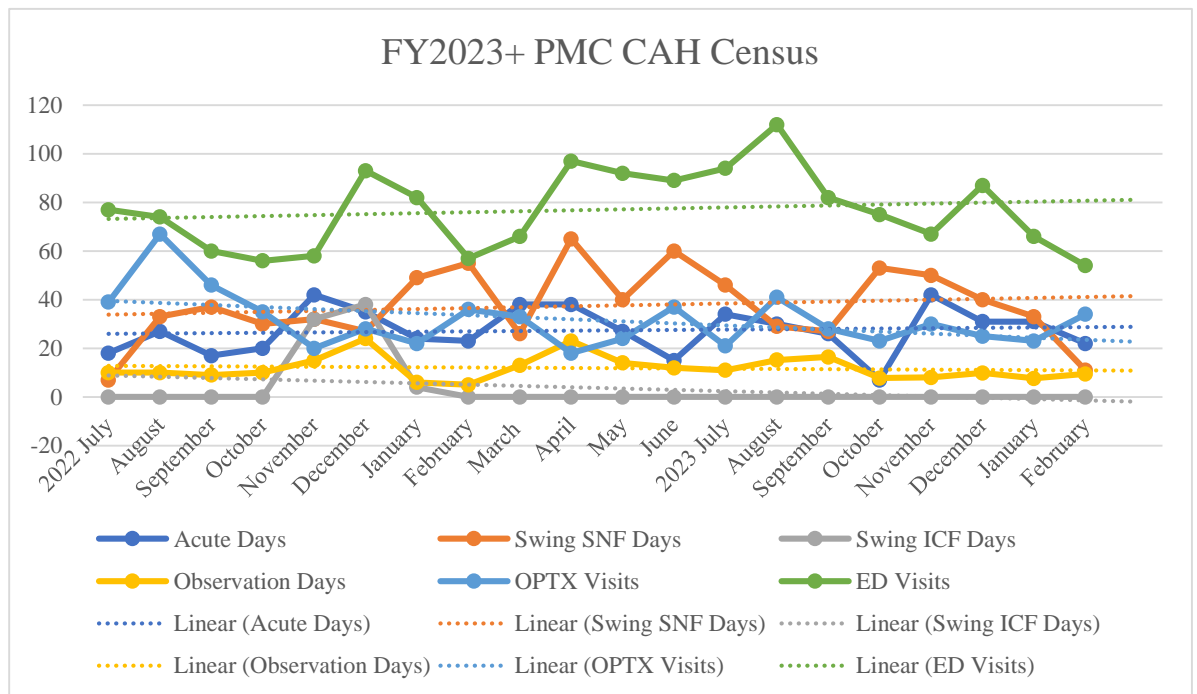
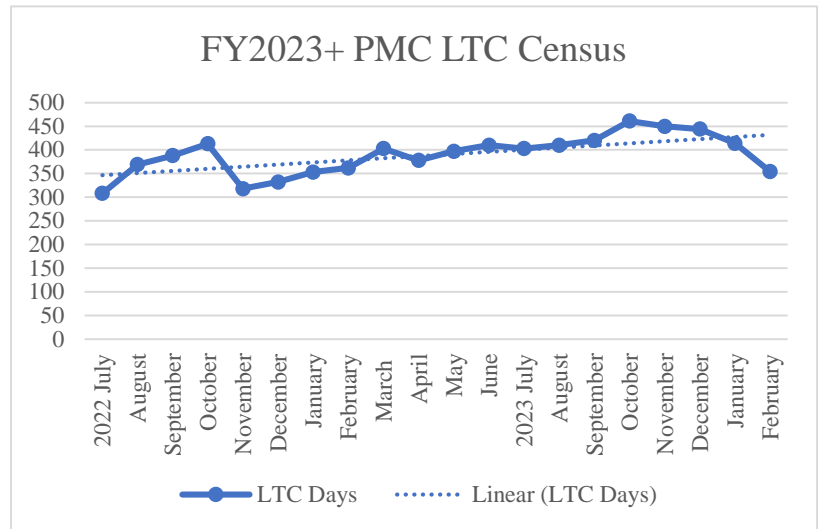
We feel blessed to have had so many opportunities for learning this year. Our goal is not only to train but to reinforce the training by using drills to keep us prepared and our skills sharp. This is a challenge without a nurse educator/staff development person but is something we can do with increased attention and time.

**Facility**

Space continues to be a very difficult situation for our departments. We are still very limited in space, storage and meeting/education rooms. Our UAA students take their exams in the OR because it is less noisy than the conference room and has less foot traffic. I have been very involved in the new WERC and hospital planning and am trying to ensure we incorporate the space needs in the new facilities.

**Financial Wellness**

Volumes have been down over the last few months. We anticipate they will grow through the spring and summer months.



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