



Petersburg
MEDICAL CENTER

Home Health and Community Based Services Report April 2026

Workforce Wellness

This past year has been a year of growth and team building. As you know, Home Health has experienced significant leadership changes, with four different managers over the past eight years. I am working hard to bring stability to a department that has strong potential to positively impact our community.

Our team is a mix of remote and in-person employees. We prioritize meeting with the entire team twice weekly to stay up to date on any challenges or changes impacting the department, including personnel, billing, patient care, quality, and social work. These meetings also provide an opportunity to offer support and recognition for team members who consistently step in to help one another.

Aly at reception and Kayleigh in nursing have been excellent additions to our team. We are also excited to welcome our new Cedar Social Club Activities Coordinator, Ryan Nelson. Ryan brings experience in childcare activities and cooking and will be completing CNA training to further support the role. We will be saying goodbye to Kelsey Leak, PTA, in two weeks, who had been temporarily filling this position.

Historically, Home Health sees an increase in census beginning around May each year. I currently have an RN position posted for Home Health/Eldercare Services that I would like to fill as we expand services. At present, with a lower census, Kayleigh and I are managing the workload effectively and I have adequate time to complete managerial responsibilities. However, if census increases before a full-time RN is hired, we may need to consider utilizing a travel nurse to support patient care needs.

Community Engagement

We have taken part in several community-based outreach activities this quarter, including the Health Fair, Project Connect, and a blood pressure check station at the grocery store. These events provided staff with opportunities to educate the community about Home Health and Cedar Social Club, as well as preventative health measures and planning for the future.

In March, Brandy Boggs provided in-person training for patients and families on Medicare, asset protection, and long-term care planning. Looking ahead, Brandy is hopeful that by summer she will be offering a weekly remote support hour to continue these discussions, answer questions, and help community members connect with resources that support aging in place.

Patient Centered Care

Home Health and the Therapies Department continue to collaborate closely for shared patients, holding meetings every other week to review care plans and coordinate discharges. We also offered collaborative educational training for the Therapies Department, as they are required to document in a secondary EHR and follow additional regulations specific to this patient population. We are fortunate to be able to offer therapy services in the home and value our strong working relationship with the Therapies Department, which contributes to improved patient outcomes and continuity of care.

One identified gap in healthcare services in Petersburg is the availability of personal care services. When patients no longer qualify for skilled Home Health services and are discharged, many still require assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and mobility. While Medicaid options exist locally, patients with Medicare or private insurance often must pay out-of-pocket for in-home care.

Our department is exploring the possibility of developing a non-skilled personal care services program that would operate separately from the Home Health agency to serve individuals who do not meet Home Health eligibility requirements. I am currently working with Finance and the Business Office to explore potential options and determine how we can best meet this community need.

Facility

We continue working to organize our space on the Fram campus. Our goal is to separate wound and incontinence care supplies from the equipment lending closet, which historically have been stored together. We are collaborating with Maintenance and the Therapies Department to utilize a portion of the warehouse for durable medical equipment that is loaned not only to Home Health patients but also to community members not currently receiving Home Health services.

Financial Wellness

With the assistance of Brandy Boggs and Katie Bryson, PMC submitted a grant proposal for Senior In-Home Services funding to support case management services. This proposal is especially exciting as it includes funding for outreach case management services to the community of Wrangell. Home Health also collaborated on a proposal to Beat the Odds to help fund equipment and training to better support cancer patients.

Brandy and I recently met with a representative from the Senior and Disabilities Services Department to review our grant-assisted adult day program. We received a positive review along with several recommendations to enhance service delivery. Looking ahead, we were advised that we should not have difficulty securing continuation of grant funding in the next cycle in 2027.

Additionally, we are working to implement an AI-supported tool within our EHR to enhance clinical documentation. This tool is expected to improve accuracy and compliance, reduce documentation time for clinicians, and support full reimbursement through improved regulatory adherence.

Submitted by: Ruby Shumway, RN Home Health and Community Based Services Manager
