



Petersburg Medical Center

Home Health Report: July, 2024

Workforce Wellness

The Home Team has had many changes in the past few months. The previous manager, Kirsten Testoni left the position of manager May 3, 2024. Laura Holder has stepped in and has taken on the role of permanent manager of the department. Current staff include 1 travel nurse and a travel home health aide. The ancillary staff, billing, quality and patient navigator all remain stable. Travel staffing will also be assisting as we search for permanent hires. Home Health Aide and activities assistant work in facilitating Adult Day Program activities and will begin working with community participants under the ADS grant. 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. Staff are encouraged to use breaktime as an opportunity to get outside, especially with the weather improving each day.

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. Also, we continue to work with the clinic, finance, and IT on the rollout of a remote home monitoring system that will better meet the needs of our community. 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. We continue to partner with Beat the Odds and were again 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.

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.

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.

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 36 admissions over the last four months. In addition, our quality nurse provides support to LTC and assisting 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
