Vermont Hospitalist Leadership Community

Monday June 11, 2012

Minutes

Present: Katrina Harris, Jim Poole, Bill Palmer, Mike Rousse, Cy Jordan, Randy Messier

1. Discussion of Staffing Levels/Coverage
   - Some services have created a call in process for times of high census. This ensures additional coverage but only when needed. This helps keep the long term expenses down.
   - One service splits their individual schedules so that each person is 50/50 days and nights. The feeling is that this helps everyone to experience the different shifts and have a better understanding of what the total workload is and makes people more apt to help to cover when needed.
   - One service has one person assigned as the admitter so that the rounders’ are not interrupted during the day and are better able to handle the volume of patients on the units.
   - It was suggested that people take a closer look at the value of their programs beyond RVU’s and billings. Some areas to consider are the savings associated with the reduction in the length of stay, reduction in the re-admission rate and the value of having physicians on site during the night that not only improves care but may also reduce length of stay.

2. Recruitment
   - Randy asked the group if there was still an interest in further discussing how we could coordinate recruitment to the various programs in the State. Some organizations do not have anyone assigned to do this work and they fit it in when they can and others have departments that advertise and recruit for them. The group expressed an interest in continuing the conversation. This may be a topic for us to consider for our face to face meeting in July.
3. Nurse Practitioners
   - The group discussed the need to co-sign orders and notes from NP’s. There are different approaches taken at each hospital based on each organization’s interpretation of the rules. Most of the services treat NP’s and PA’s the same way in order to reduce confusion. Cy suggested that he ask the Vermont Medical Society to research this topic for the group to see if it is possible to get commonly shared interpretation of the standards.

4. Face to Face Meeting
   - The group decided that we would hold a face to face meeting on the last Monday in the months of July, October and January. We would alternate between Quechee and Rutland. Our next meeting will be July 30th at 5:30. We will be looking for a location in Rutland.

Minutes submitted by: Randy Messier