Hospitalist Program Development and Implementation: A Best Practices Approach

Length: 1.5 hours

Target Audience: Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Medical Officers, Chief Operating Officers, Chief Financial Officers

Description: In today’s healthcare environment, the Society of Hospitalist Medicine (SHM) estimates that there are approximately 2,800 hospitalist groups providing services in U.S. hospitals. Even with hospitalist medicine being the fastest growing medical specialty, there is a shortage of hospitalists in the marketplace as hospitals across the country have either implemented, or are currently in the process of implementing hospitalists programs, to address compliance, quality and operations.

The need for regulatory & clinical compliance with federal and state agencies (e.g. CMS, QIO’s, etc.), accrediting agencies (e.g. JCAHO) and commercial payers, coupled with current physician practice patterns, collectively support the strong value proposition that Hospitalists bring to today’s hospitals and their significance as Change Agents for today’s hospital leadership team.

This presentation will address hospitalist recruitment best practices, successful hospitalist implementation plans, the pros and cons of various hospitalist models, the clinical and operational benefits typically derived from hospitalist programs, and identifying appropriate methods and metrics to measure clinical and operational outcomes, risk reduction, patient satisfaction and ROI.

Faculty: Moderator plus two to three panelists.

The moderator should be a senior healthcare executive, or seasoned healthcare consultant, with extensive hospitalist service line experience. The moderator should be well versed in various types of hospitalist models, including both adult and pediatric hospitalist programs and hospitalist operations across a wide variety of institutions. He/She should be actively engaged in hospitalist planning, implementation, staffing, resource allocation and developing and implementing metrics to measure clinical quality of care, operations, patient satisfaction and ROI.

Panelists could be other hospital and healthcare leaders, such as a VPMA, CEO, COO and/or a Director of Hospitalist Medicine who have a comprehensive understanding of the clinical, financial and operational
requirements of implementing, sustaining and ongoing monitoring of successful hospitalist programs.

Topics for Discussion:

• Identify how hospitalists can lead improvement in hospital care to promote quality and improve patient safety
• Identify the clinical and operational benefits of hospitalists to the emergency department and throughout the entire hospital
• Identify opportunities for hospitalists to impact patient throughput
• Define the types of return on investment from hospitalist programs
• Develop methods and metrics to measure outcomes
• Apply specific approaches to using internal and external benchmarks

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are the typical challenges that hospitals encounter when implementing and maintaining a hospitalist program?
2. When does a hospital typically see a ROI after the implementation of a hospitalist program?
3. What is the best way to introduce the idea of hospitalists to the hospital’s medical staff?
4. What have you found more effective, using the medical staff at the current hospital or using an outside hospitalist company?
5. What are the advantages/disadvantages in each of the following hospitalist practice models? (Independent group, hospital employed, or outside vendor/contracted group)
6. How many patients should each hospitalist be responsible for daily?

Additional Resources:

• [www.hospitalmedicine.org](http://www.hospitalmedicine.org)