

2016 Community Health Leadership Award – Nomination

Nominator Name: John Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer
Organization Being Nominated: Sunnyside Community Hospital & Clinics
Name of Program: Cardiopulmonary Services
Program Contact: Susan Snyder

Program Description:

The Sunnyside Community Hospital Cardiopulmonary Department has two separate areas of expertise. One set of services involves testing for cardiac conditions. These tests include:

- Electrocardiogram (EKG) testing
- Cardiac treadmill stress testing
- Stress echocardiography
- Holter monitoring – a 24 hour continuous EKG
- Event monitoring – extended EKG monitoring
- Lower extremity arterial circulation testing
- Ambulatory BP monitoring

The second component of the CPS department involves the lungs, both testing pulmonary function and the treatment of pulmonary conditions.

An Asthma Education Program is taught by respiratory therapists who are Certified Asthma Educators. This is available by appointment only and patients need a referral from their physician.

Respiratory therapists (RT's) measure lung function (PFTs), manage mechanical ventilators, test arterial blood gases, test for sleep apnea, give specialized medications to children with asthma, manage oxygen supplementation, test for home oxygen requirements and a number of other patient tests and treatments.

RT's are an essential part of therapy in every hospital clinical department including the Emergency Department, the Intensive Care Unit, the Medical/Surgical Unit, Ambulatory Care Unit and the Family Birth Center. In addition to complex hospital functions, Cardiopulmonary Services also support the larger community with these and other essential services and education.

In addition to these services, the hospital upgraded its suite of cardiac services in February 2016 adding 24-hour cardiac catheterization. This upgrade completed the state's requirements for designation as a Level I Cardiac facility.

Other requirements in Level I certification include having a designated cardiac response team lead by a cardiologist, emergency nursing staff trained in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and interventional and diagnostic services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Population Served:

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Goal and measure of success:

The program goal was to increase the level of cardiac services available to the community while dramatically reducing potential transport time in a cardiac emergency.

How did the nominee identify the community's health need, for example, did you use the community health needs assessment?

Utilization of the Community Health Needs Assessment

Describe how community partners were involved:

As a community based non-profit, we closely support the residents of our service area and take their needs and recommendations into account. This project also required specific outreach to EMS and other community health providers.

Was the Board of Trustees or the Board of Commissioners involved in the program?

Yes

Did you use data in benchmarking and goal setting? If you didn't use data, how did you evaluate effectiveness? Please describe.

Data and benchmarks were utilized by internal survey metrics as well as analyzing and responding to community needs for advanced cardiac services within the service area and utilization of the Community Health Needs Assessment.

How did this project help to advance the cause of Equity of Care in Washington State?

This initiative advanced health equity by providing a new high-level service based on community need.

What results are you seeing? What difference has this program made in the community?

This program has resulted in decreased transit times for EMS patients in cardiac distress.

Has this program been awarded or recognized by others?

This program has been frequently recognized in the local media.

Who else was involved in making this successful?

We involved our community partners, EMS and other local healthcare providers.

Anything else you want to add about this program?

This designation will dramatically improve the health outcomes for emergency cardiac patients within our service area. Prior to this designation emergency cardiac patients could be faced with a transport time of over 30 minutes. By eliminating this lengthy transport time we increase results and ultimately save lives.