

Revenue integrity team looks into different ideas

Written by Chris Lee

Julie Vernon updated hospital board members at their April 27 meeting about ideas the revenue integrity team has been looking into. A charge master review was conducted at MMH recently. As reported by administrator John Ayoub during the last meeting, one example of a change is the cost for aspirin.

Vernon said they might consider looking into how they bill for procedures performed at the hospital. Billing by the minute instead of the hour is something they might look into.

Additionally, a high intensity room rate is something Vernon said they are working on. This rate would compensate for patients who require additional nurses care.

Ayoub mentioned costs and rates for a good number of things at MMH are much lower than other hospitals in the region.

Dr. Dennis Jelden updated the board as the chief of the medical staff. He said overall people are satisfied with the care they are receiving at the hospital. He also said there haven't been any quality issues that have jumped out at him.

CFO Greg Was gave the financial conditions and activity report. Ayoub said although it wasn't a great month of March, things are ahead of where they were last year.

Compliance officer Erica Brady will be resigning, but has agreed to come back and help a new hire transition into the process. Was will step in during the interim period. Ayoub said numerous applications have already been turned in for the unique position.

Administrator reports activity

Ayoub said the first transaction took place with the medicaid provider fee. The hospital is taxed

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by the state based on the medicaid services it provides. The state then turns around and matches that with the federal government and gives payouts based on care. Ayoub said the gain from the transaction was \$42,431.

IV pumps are something the hospital is looking at. The ones used currently have been discontinued by the provider and they are looking at a couple of other options.

Another item the hospital is looking into is a fetal heart monitor. The current machine is getting to the end of its life, according to the administrator.

A new server was purchased as a result of Banner Health contacting the hospital and alerting them they were reaching capacity and could possibly see a crash.

MMH has been in contact with the state public health department about an audiology machine. The current machine has been shared with Haxtun and a new one will be split with Julesburg.

A switch has been made in the ambulance fleet with Haxtun receiving a new ambulance. Haxtun will now use the newest and oldest while Holyoke will use the middle two.

Ayoub said the hospital continues to recruit for another full-time physician who would live in Holyoke. He said this isn't because of an issue with any other physicians currently working at the hospital. "Folks feel it's better to have a doctor that they can see on a regular recurring basis," Ayoub said.

Director of Nursing Claudia Powell recently gave a medical prep presentation to seven or eight high school students. Powell said she showed them around different areas of the hospital.

Ayoub updated board members on a number of recent hires that have worked out well and said they have all fit in nicely.

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MMH celebrated national volunteer week and said since the volunteer program was started in June 2008, volunteers have put in over 2,000 hours at the hospital.

Ayoub said the recent audits conducted at MMH were two completely different audits. As reported last month, the audit done by Eide Baily went smoothly. A Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) audit done by Trailblazer wasn't as smooth, according to Ayoub.

Other business

In other business April 27, the hospital board:

—noted the next board meeting will be Tuesday, May 24.

—approved credentialing for Alvin Armstrong, pathology.

—accepted executive compensation committee's recommendation for incentive compensation.