Pilot Study: Utilization of Physician Assistants at Academic Teaching Hospitals

Travis L. Randolph, PA-C, ATC
E. Barry McDonough, MD
Eric D. Olson, PhD
Introduction of Pilot Study

- A 6 month pilot study was conducted in Orthopaedics to compare the difference between using Physician Assistants in shared clinics vs split clinics at academic teaching institutions.

- **Shared Clinic Model**: PA functions similar to a resident and each patient is staffed with Supervising Physician; PAs in this model function very similar to a scribe and billing is captured by the physician; very common in academic institutions.

- **Split Clinic Model**: PA functions autonomously in clinic as a healthcare provider while Supervising Physician is in clinic or in the operating room; more common in private practice setting.
6 Month Results of Pilot Study

- Results averaged per month
- 17% in total patient volume
- 41% in New Patients
- 16% in Return Patients
- 14% in patient No Shows for Supervising Physician’s clinic
- Clinic wait time for patients from 3 weeks to less than 1 week within 3 months
- 95% of patients rated the PA as a good or excellent clinician in survey

Comparison of Shared and Split Clinics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Shared</th>
<th>Split</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Patients</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg/ Week</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPV</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPV</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Shows (McD)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-op H&amp;P</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 Month Results of Pilot Study

- PA’s total patient volume increased by over 700%, payments increased over 600% while RVUs increased by more than 500%
- Supervising Physician experienced a 5% decrease in total payments and RVUs during this 6 month study
- YTD numbers in 2016 show a 20% increase in RVUs/ Charges and a 16% increase in net payments for the Supervising Physician when compared to 2015
Conclusion of Pilot Study

• Utilizing a split clinic model allows Physician Assistants to function at the highest scope of their practice and provide quality patient care at academic teaching institutions.

• This study illustrates that utilizing PAs appropriately can significantly increase patient access to care and generate increased revenue for the department.

• It was determined that additional nursing support was needed to reduce administrative duties (forms, patient calls, etc.) for PAs in order to increase clinic availability.

• Resident physicians reported an improved educational experience while utilizing the split clinic model.