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MORGAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WINS STATEWIDE PATIENT SAFETY AWARD FOR MEDICATION RECONCILIATION

ATLANTA – The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) presented its prestigious Quality and Patient Safety Award to Morgan Memorial Hospital in Madison for its project that improved medication reconciliation. The project, titled “Admission Medication Reconciliation Completion,” won second place in the Critical Access Hospitals category. These annual awards recognize Georgia health care organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

Patients admitted to the hospital frequently receive new medications or have changes made to their existing ones. If hospital clinicians cannot access patients’ medication lists, they run the risk of prescribing duplicate medications or omitting necessary ones. It is especially important to avoid such inconsistencies with newly admitted patients, a practice known as medication reconciliation. The goal of Morgan Memorial’s project was to increase admission medication reconciliations by 50 percent.

A risk assessment revealed that the electronic health record (EHR) system was set up for doctors to complete the med rec, but not nurses. With the doctors having limited time to complete the med recs, many of them were not being done. The system was revised to grant nurses access to complete the med recs.

To further ensure med rec completion, nurses began obtaining home medication information from admitted patients so that any drug-to-drug allergies or safety issues would be identified prior to viewing the patient’s chart in the EHR system. Additionally, nurses were given access to view patients’ prescription histories from six nationwide pharmacies allowing the doctor and pharmacist to address contraindications before the med rec was complete. Both of these changes helped streamline the process.

Implementing the above changes to the med rec process resulted in a 50 percent completion rate within 6 months, up from 3 percent. Within 10 months, the completion rate had increased to 72 percent.

“Medication reconciliation is a key component in ensuring that patients receive proper care,” said Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) President Earl V. Rogers. “We applaud Morgan Memorial Hospital for its dedication to improvement in this area and for its efforts in providing the best and safest care possible to its patients.”

About PHA

The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA), a subsidiary of GHA, was established in January 2000 to improve patient care and patient safety in hospitals and other health care facilities and create healthy communities.

About GHA

Established in 1929, GHA is the state's largest trade organization of hospitals and health systems providing education, research and risk management services to its more than 170 hospital and health system members. Additionally, it represents and advocates health policy issues benefiting Georgia's citizens before the state legislature and U.S. Congress as well as before regulatory bodies.

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