



LIFECARE PHYSICIAN

LIFECARE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

THE INAUGURAL ISSUE



Phillip B. Douglas
Chairman & CEO
LifeCare Family of Hospitals

Welcome to our quarterly LifeCare physician newsletter! We are very excited to have the opportunity to share what we hope will be helpful information to assist you in providing the highest quality and most efficient care possible to our Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) patients.



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In each quarterly issue, we will provide you with short articles that we believe are timely and pertinent to your LTAC practice. Updates on clinical care specific to LTAC hospitals and LTAC outcome data analysis, as well as discussions on throughput in the continuum, best practices, and policy implications will be addressed, in coming issues.

If you have a specific topic that you would like to see included in a future issue, please let us know. We look forward to your feedback, and we thank you for all you do for our LTAC patients each and every day!

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Q1 2013

- Special points of interest:
- Documentation that counts
 - Transdisciplinary team approach

“STARS” A YEAR LATER: KEEPING THE MOMENTUM

It’s been a year since LifeCare rolled out the *Specificity, Teamwork, Accountability, Results and Sustainability* (STARS) program. With this initiative, we began a transdisciplinary training program to bring together physicians and staff members in a team effort to improve documentation of our patient care. The extensive education in the STARS program includes specific information for nursing, case management, medical records, pharmacy, dietary and administrative staff, as well as for physicians to help us all work in concert to identify all pertinent diagnoses and complications to improve our ability to accurately reflect our patients’ actual acuity.

In today’s health care environment, policy makers must be able to identify a true and accurate measure of patient acuity when deciding on how to allocate resources for different levels of care through out the continuum. If we cannot adequately document the high

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The LifeCare Family of Hospitals





“STARS” A YEAR LATER: KEEPING THE MOMENTUM

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acuity of our critically ill or medically complex LTAC patients, they may appear to policy makers and payers, at least on paper, to be much less ill than they actually are. In such a scenario, the argument could be made to try to force us to care for these very complex patients at a lower level of care, which would be disastrous for quality and outcomes.

Only by appropriately documenting all active diagnoses and the acuity of those diagnoses can we hope to ensure that we are accurately reflecting both the acuity and complexity of our patients for all to see, including policy makers, thus ensuring that we can continue to provide the LTAC level of care to those that need it most in the future.



STARS

**Specificity, Teamwork, Accountability,
Results, and Sustainability**

These are the key components to LifeCare’s clinical resource management program focusing on the impact of documentation.

**We are building a company that cares
for each patient’s body, mind and soul.**

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