Making sure the right number and type of staff are on hand at all times and are well trained is a key part of understanding patient flow, data. Flowing day-to-day and hour-to-hour traffic means planning. Computerized systems enabled hospitals to design schedules to accommodate patient flow and ensure efficiency in the surgical arena.

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Hospitals are always on the lookout for new processes or new ways to reduce costs. They can deter- mine the most efficient throughput, timing, and timing that's best for the patients. Some hospitals have encour- aged their staff to find ways to improve efficiency. They can make changes to the scheduling process, including adding more staff or changing the way patients are scheduled. When there are unexpected delays, staff can schedule additional treatments or procedures.

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4 of 7 | CLINICAL EFFICIENCY

What does the term “clinical efficiency” mean? For hospitals it means delivering the highest quality care at a low cost to patients and achieving top scores in quality while keeping costs down.

The Commonwealth Fund partnered with Health Management Associates to conduct a case study of one of these “highest performing” hospitals. To other hospitals and health systems, they can learn from their experiences.

Hospitals are under growing pressure to enhance clinical efficiency. Even though the increasing costs of doing business and analyzing data to measure progress in real time, forecasting and planning are still very much the case, hospitals today want the best possible care for their patients.

Enhancing Value in Care Delivery

Reasearch by Bill Sanzamour

As a clear understanding of service lines connect with the organization as a whole, the focus is on work flow patterns. Documenting where the patient waits to get care, and how delay changes in such things as volume and type of staff used, can make the most efficient use of staff.

Making sure the right staff is in place for the right type of work is another challenge. Coordination is critical.

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Making sure the right staff is in place for the right type of work is another challenge. Coordination is critical.

Managerial staff and physicians must be able to work in the same space, continually alert to improvements.

5 Things to consider to enhance clinical efficiency

1. Without an overall investment in people, processes, and technology, it is impossible to achieve clinical efficiency.

2. Lean and Six Sigma improvement methodologies as well as process management and systems-thinking processes are necessary.

3. Revisiting Lean and Six Sigma improvement methodologies as well as process management and systems-thinking processes are necessary.

4. Work practices and work environments are changing in the same way.

5. Doctors can also improve care by using information available throughout the delivery system.

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Slim margins are a fact of life for today’s health care providers. Going forward, your hospital will need to serve more patients and achieve better outcomes, all at a much lower cost. Reducing supply costs alone will not be enough – you’ll need a more strategic approach. That’s where VHA comes in. We can work with you to reduce variability across your hospital practices, leading to cost savings and optimized care processes. We’ve done it for others. We can do it for you.

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