Health care reform has caused payment changes, with rumors of more changes to come. The resulting uncertainty has caused us to worry about how we can improve the care we deliver with fewer resources. As CentraCare Health has begun to focus on population health measures, we reviewed the Central Minnesota community health needs assessment required by the Affordable Care Act.

We analyzed the data and verified the results by comparing to our own records or other data sources and found significant differences between communities. Most physicians tend to believe all geographic areas face the same problems and use the same solutions, but the data shows each of our communities has unique health issues requiring unique solutions.

Some of our communities have higher smoking rates than others, and women are smoking more than men. Many of the communities with higher smoking rates are concerned about asthma. Other communities have concerns about diabetes, particularly in ethnic populations, while others have higher rates of depression.

Rather than saying we are the same, we must say we all are different in subtle ways. These subtle differences often need slightly different solutions rather than just adapting the solution that worked one town away. In times of scarce resources, we really need to look at the data and identify which big problems we can address in our unique communities.

Although we still want our solutions to be evidence-based, let’s make sure we are addressing the right problem first.
Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program begins at St. Cloud Hospital

By Kathleen A. Kulus, MD, FAAP, Medical Director

St. Cloud Hospital now offers a Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program where in-house pediatricians care for pediatric patients at the hospital 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Prior to the program’s start, patients were cared for by rounding and traditional “on-call” providers covering for their particular groups, while unassigned pediatric patients were divided among the various providers. The new Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program is similar to the Adult Hospital Medicine Program in that we care for the majority of pediatric patients admitted to St. Cloud Hospital and newborns in the nursery. We also are available to consult on Emergency Trauma Center patients and by telephone for providers who may call with any pediatric concerns.

Since starting the program last December, we have seen an average of 10 pediatric patients and 16 nursery patients daily.

Currently, seven physicians are working in the program: Drs. Sarah Carter, Rebecca Campbell and Melissa Barry are Med-Peds physicians who also work in the Adult Hospital Medicine Program, while myself, Drs. Patricia Scherrer, Marcie Ellwein and Ron Grant are pediatricians working part-time to full-time within the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program. With the success of the program to date, we continue to recruit additional pediatricians. Until we are fully staffed, we will use a combination of moonlighting local community pediatricians and locums to fill all the available shifts. This new program expands upon a tradition of excellent care provided by the community pediatricians on staff at St. Cloud Hospital as well as the PICU and NICU.

The support of the community pediatricians in building the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program at St. Cloud Hospital has been wonderful. The teamwork and camaraderie ensures the program’s success and allows us to provide a full spectrum of inpatient pediatric care for children in our region.

For more information about the program or to refer a patient, please call the St. Cloud Hospital transfer line at 888-387-2862.

Heart & Vascular Center receives accreditation for pediatric transthoracic and fetal echocardiography

By Edward (Chip) Martin MD, Pediatric Cardiologist, St. Cloud Hospital

CentraCare Heart & Vascular Center has been accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) for its pediatric transthoracic and fetal echocardiography program. It is one of only three sites in Minnesota to hold this distinction.

This national accreditation demonstrates that the highly competent staff is committed to maintaining an exemplary program in which children, adolescents and adults with suspected or confirmed congenital heart disease and fetuses with suspected structural heart defects receive state-of-the-art echocardiographic examinations 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Each year more than 35,000 babies in the United States are born with congenital heart defects, making it the most common type of birth defect. Over the past few decades, diagnosis and treatment of congenital heart defects have tremendously improved with tools such as echocardiograms to evaluate heart structure and function.

For more information about this service or a referral, call 320-656-7020.

Pediatric cardiologists Edward (Chip) Martin, MD, and Ann Dunnigan, MD, specialize in diagnosing and treating congenital heart disease, abnormal heart rhythms, chest pain, fainting spells and heart murmurs in children at CentraCare Heart & Vascular Center.
Introducing our new CentraCare Clinic Specialists

**Pediatric Hospital Medicine**

**Rebecca Campbell, MD**
*Medical School:* University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
*Residency:* Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis  
*Board Certified:* Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

**Sarah Carter, MD**
*Medical School:* University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City  
*Residency:* Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, Neb.  
*Board Certified:* Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

**Marcine Ellwein, MD**
*Medical School:* University of South Dakota, Vermillion  
*Residency:* University of Minnesota - Department of Pediatrics  
*Fellowship:* University of Minnesota - Department of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology  
*Board Certified:* Pediatrics

**Ronald Grant, MD**
*Medical School:* University of Wisconsin - Madison  
*Residency:* University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson  
*Board Certified:* Pediatrics

**Kathleen Kulus, MD**
*Medical School:* Mayo Medical School  
*Residency:* University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals, Salt Lake City  
*Board Certified:* Pediatrics

**Patricia Scherrer, MD**
*Medical School:* Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond  
*Residency:* University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics, Madison  
*Fellowship:* University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics, Madison  
*Board Certified:* Pediatric Critical Care Medicine and Pediatrics

**Melissa Barry, MD** *(not shown)*
*Medical School:* Creighton University School of Medicine, Omaha, Neb.  
*Residency:* Creighton University  
*Board Certified:* Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

**Neurosurgery**

**Jerone Kennedy, MD**
*Medical School:* Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif.  
*Residency:* University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn.  
*(3-month neurovascular surgery residency)*  
*Board Certified:* Neurological Surgery  
*Clinical Interests:* Cerebrovascular disorders, brain injuries and brain neoplasms

**Pulmonary Medicine**

**Melissa McClure, MD**
*Medical School:* University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis  
*Residency:* Internal Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School and Regions Hospital, St. Paul  
*Fellowship:* Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis  
*Board Eligible:* Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine  
*Clinical Interests:* Lung cancer, pulmonary nodules, medical education and critical care

**Vascular Surgery**

**Christopher Leville, MD, FACS, RPVI**
*Medical School:* University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
*Residency:* General Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
*Fellowship:* Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio  
*Board Certified:* General and Vascular Surgery  
*Clinical Interests:* Endovascular Surgery

Access all CentraCare Clinic physician bios online at centracare.com
Tips for documentation

By Connie Goulet, CPC; Sue Stein, CPC; Jessica Timmer, CPC; and Lindsey Theisen, RHIT, Compliance Specialists, CentraCare Clinic

Avoid using the term “non-contributory” in documentation as it is ambiguous and may be viewed as meaning the system was not relevant, and therefore was not reviewed. Instead, use the phrase “reviewed with no pertinent findings related to chief complaint” to document if reviewed.

Criteria for TIME are averages/guidelines for each E&M and NOT considered determining factors of E&M selection UNLESS:

Office/Outpatient:
- Counseling and/or coordination of care consists of GREATER than 50 percent of the total visit time.
- If so, consider time as the key or controlling factor when selecting your level of service.

Documentation Guidelines:
- TIME must be present in the medical record.
- Documentation must include sufficient detail to support the nature of the counseling.
- Expectations are to minimize the history and exam and maximize the narrative of the visit (State what was counseled or what was provided for coordination of care.)

Facility:
- Include total unit/floor time for inpatient services.

Documentation Guideline:
- Documentation must support sufficient detail of the medical necessity when choosing a specific code level based on time.

Face-to-face time refers to the time with the provider only. Counseling by other staff is not considered to be part of the face-to-face provider/patient encounter time.

Reference(s):

NGS (Minnesota Medicare Carrier):
http://www.ngsmedicare.com/ngs/portal/ngsmedicare Education & Training; Policy Training; Evaluation & Mgmt; Time Based E/M services