



# UMC Management Action Plan (MAP)



January Status  
Meeting to the Board  
1/30/17

# Agenda

- Comparison of the December's performance data with the MAP benchmarks
- MAP Activities
- Issues and Concerns

# Dec. Key Performance Indicators

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Fav/ Unfav		Budget	Actual	Variance	Fav/ Unfav	Desired Trend	Actual Trend
Metric	FY2017 (Dec)					FY2017 YTD					
<b>Emergency Department</b>											
Number of visits	4,604	4,952	348	7.6%	F	13,905	14,271	366	2.6%	F	↑
Number of visits by ambulance	1,243	1,319	76	6.1%	F	3,754	3,844	90	2.4%	F	↑
Patients in Observation	151	223	72	47.7%	U	477	638	161	33.8%	U	↓
Median length of stay in observation status	< 48 hr.	38 hrs. 70% <48 hrs	10	21%	F	< 48 hr.	38 hrs. 65% <48 hrs	10	21%	F	↓
<b>Hospital</b>											
Total admissions (hospital+SNF)	653	661	8	1.2%	F	1,808	1,801	-7	-0.4%	U	↑
Total discharges (hospital+SNF)	653	660	7	1.1%	F	1,807	1,800	-7	-0.4%	U	↑
Average length of stay	5.6 days	5.5 days	-0.1 days	-1.8%	F	5.6 days	5.4 days	-0.2 days	-3.6%	F	↓
Number of deliveries	40	30	-10	-25.0%	U	137	96	-41	-29.9%	U	↓
HCAHPS "recommend hospital"	50%	44.40%	-5.6%	-11.2%	U	50%	44.4%	-5.6%	-11.2%	U	↓
Average daily census - Psychiatry	18 (before April: 18) 26 (May – July: 26)	17.3 N/A	-0.7 N/A	-3.9% N/A	U N/A	18 (before April: 18) 26 (May – July: 26)	18 N/A	0 N/A	0% N/A	F N/A	N/A N/A
<b>Ambulatory Care</b>											
Total number of ambulatory visits	1,589	1,576	-13	-0.8%	U	4,745	5,396	651	13.7%	F	↑
Number of radiology tests / exams	1,102	2,367	1,265	114.8%	F	3,394	7,313	3,919	115.5%	F	↑
Number of laboratory test	249	202	-47	-18.9%	U	819	642	-177	-21.6%	U	↓
Same Day Surgeries	75	106	31	41.3%	F	248	307	59	23.8%	F	↑
<b>Financial</b>											
Days in AR	48 days	58.8	10.8		U	48 days	58.8	10.8		U	↓
Days cash on hand	45 days	112.1	67.1		F	45 days	112.1	67.1		F	↑
Current Ratio	1.5	3.9	2.4		F	1.5	3.9	2.4		F	↑
Average Payment Period	60 days	46.5	-13.5		U	60 days	46.5	-13.5		U	↓
Deductible Ratio	66.50%	64.50%	-2.00%		F	66.50%	64.50%	-2.00%		F	↓
Operating Margin	1.00%	-1.80%	-2.80%		U	1.00%	-1.80%	-2.80%		U	↓
Total Margin	7.90%	-7.60%	-15.50%		U	7.90%	-7.60%	-15.50%		U	↓
<b>Productivity</b>											
FTEs per average daily census (acute)	3.1	3.3	0	6.5%	U	3.1	3.3	0	6.5%	U	↓
Salary and benefits expense per FTE (\$)	\$83,089	\$83,347	258	0.3%	U	\$83,089	\$83,264	175	0.2%	U	↓
% of salary and benefits expense	59.2%	54.6%	-4.6%	-7.8%	F	59.2%	54.4%	-4.8%	-8.1%	F	↓

# MAP Initiatives Update

## AMBULATORY CARE AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

- ↑ 1. Expand UMC Medical Staff Network
- ➡ 2. Implement Comprehensive Hospital-based Ambulatory Center
- ↑ 3. Establish Processes and Systems to Allow for Provider-based Billing in Outpatient Services
- ➡ 4. Develop Women's Health Services

## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED)

- ➡ 5. Strengthen Collaborative Operations in the Emergency Department
- ➡ 6. Improve Staff and Patient Safety in the ED and Throughout the Hospital
- ↑ 7. Increase Ambulance Traffic volume to UMC ED When it is the Appropriate Level of Care
- ↑ 8. Reduce Length of Stay for Patients in Observation Status

## HOSPITAL INPATIENT

- ➡ 9. Transition Hospital from a Predominantly Monday – Friday Organization to a Six-Day Organization
- ➡ 10. Improve Patient Experience of Care
- ↑ 11. Improve Physicians' Clinical Documentation
- ↑ 12. Renew The Joint Commission (TJC) Accreditation

- ➡ 13. Expand In-Patient Behavioral Health Capacity

## SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (SNF)

- ↓ 14. Migrate to a Skilled Level of Care Model

## UMC-WIDE

- ➡ 15. Improve Revenue Cycle
- ➡ 16. Establish an Effective Materials Management Department
- ➡ 17. Effectively Manage Staffing and Overtime Utilization
- ➡ 18. Complete SEIU & DCNA Negotiations
- ➡ 19. Perform a Comprehensive Contracts Review and Assessment
- ➡ 20. Update and Establish Contracts with Local Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Behavioral Health MCOs, and Commercial Companies
- ↑ 21. Enhance Risk and Compliance Management
- ➡ 22. Identify a Strategic Partner Other than the District
- ↑ 23. Support the Construction of a New Hospital

Initiatives underlined are detailed on following pages

# Implement Comprehensive, Hospital-based Ambulatory Center

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Overall Initiative Status: 

Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: None

- UMC Ambulatory Center Facility Design and Buildout
  - Certificate of Need (CON) package for ED renovations and the Ambulatory Mall has been accepted by State Health Planning Development Agency (SHPDA) with no additional questions.
    - Date Review Period Begins: January 20, 2017
    - Project Review Committee Consideration Date: March 9, 2017
    - SHCC Consideration Date: April 13, 2017
    - Estimated SHPDA Decision Date: April 20, 2017
- Ambulatory volumes above budget Dec YTD by 14%
- December volumes slightly below budget due to training and full implementation of eClinicalWorks, and physician staffing constraints

# Strengthen Collaborative Operations in the Emergency Department

Overall Initiative Status: 

Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: None

- ED interdisciplinary team (physicians, nursing, and interacting departments: continuous improvements
- ED Front end improvement effort: Major redesign to remove bottlenecks and unnecessary tasks to improve patient flow
  - Goals:
    - Remove congestion in waiting room to improve patient, visitor and staff safety
    - To ensure accurate registration data is captured
    - Better manage patient flow to improve patient satisfaction and address patients who leave without being seen
  - Current state mapped and ideal state defined
  - Implementation planning commenced to deploy the best practice of rapid triage and treatment model of care
- Respiratory Therapy Consultants: Assess the department's clinical operations and strengthen the departmental managerial, educational and quality infrastructure to best serve the needs of ED, ICU, and other in-patient areas.
- ED Physician Consultant: we've engaged with an emergency medicine physician specialist with extensive knowledge of the DC and MD EMS to assist in the implementation of the rapid triage and treatment model of care.

# Reduce Length of Stay for Patients in Observation Status

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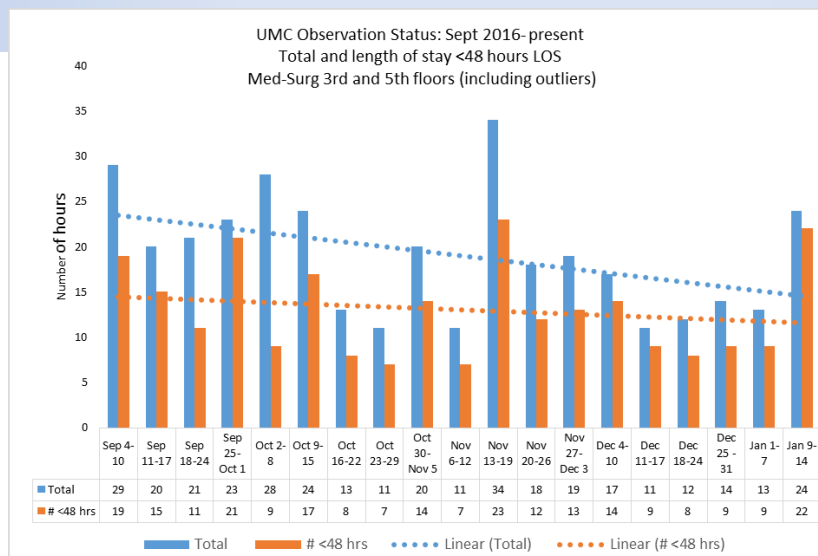
Overall Initiative Status: 

Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: TBD

- Implemented a real-time dashboard for ongoing monitoring of observation patient's length of stay
- Improving coordination among inpatient care providers to facilitate patient throughput and discharge as indicated
- Monitoring performance data weekly
- Providing weekly performance data to hospitalists
- Results:
  - Next slides
  - Med/Surgery occurrences only (excluding OB since patients are not evaluated in the ED)

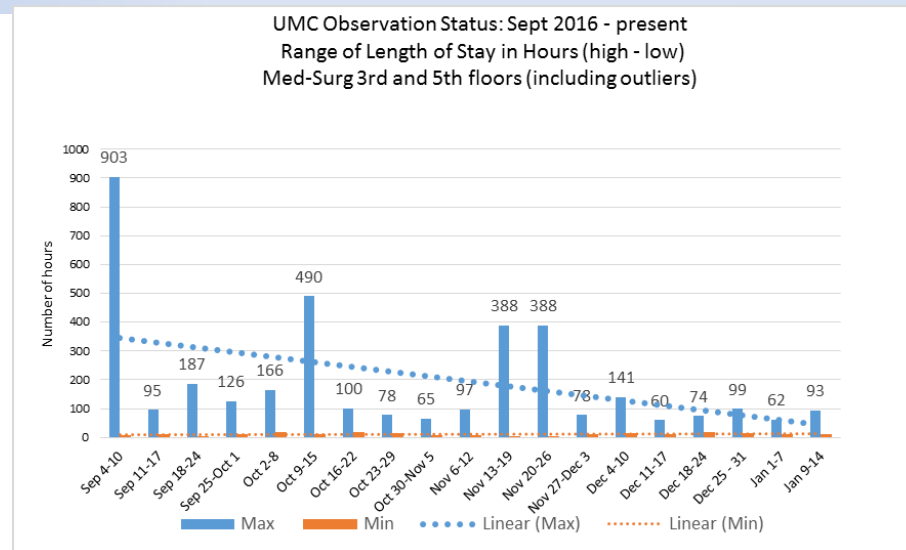
# Observation Patients



- Many emergency departments (ED) have dedicated physical space within or in the vicinity of the ED for patients requiring observation status.
- UMC ED does not have such space, patients in observation status occupy inpatient beds and use inpatient resources. Reimbursement, however, is at the outpatient rate rather than the higher inpatient rate.
- Effectively managing patients in observation status is key to freeing inpatient beds for new inpatient admissions; preventing ED bottlenecks to maximize ED capacity; and improving patient flow throughout the ED hospital.
- Observation status should only be for patients that meet the clinical criteria and observation length of stay (LOS) is less than 48 hours.
- The number of observation patients will vary based on the diagnoses seen in the ED; for example, patients with cardiac pain typically require observation status to confirm or rule out the patient's diagnosis.
- The above graph shows the actual number of patients in observation status by week from September 4<sup>th</sup> through the present.
- The blue trend line illustrates that the actual number of patients in observation status is declining (favorable). The comparison in height of the two bars represent the proportion of total patients with a less than a 48 hour LOS. The closer the top of the bars, the better the performance as seen best in the Week of December 11-17. Across the time period, the actual number of observation patients with a LOS <48 hours is also moving in a favorable direction.

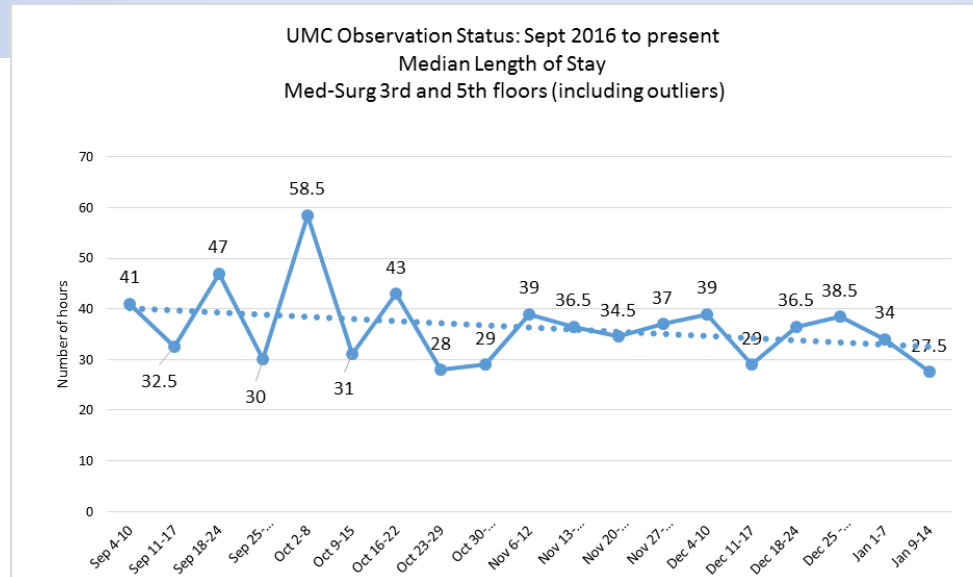


# Observation Patients cont.



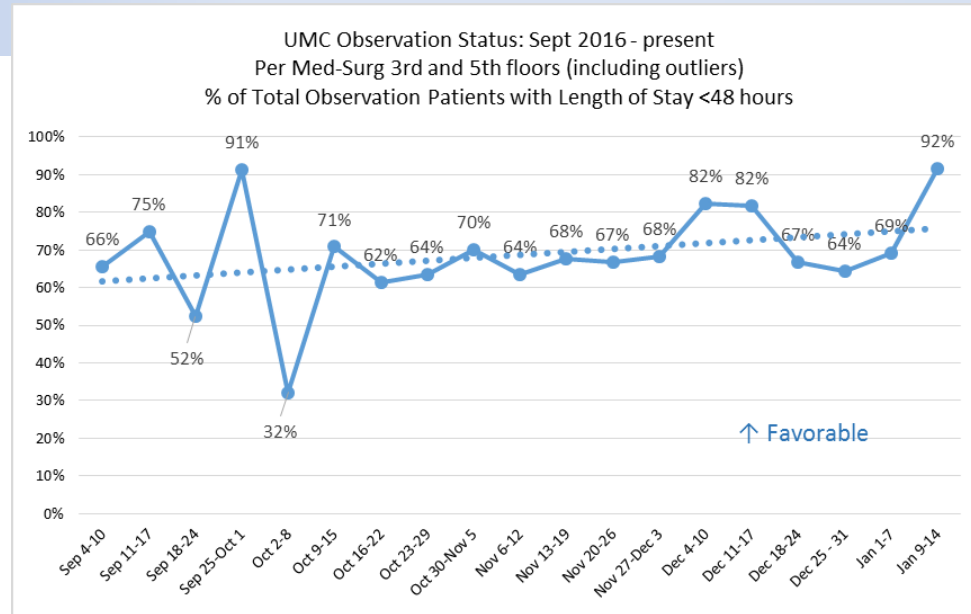
- Common contributing factors to excessive observation LOS are social issues such as: the patient is homeless; the family is unable to care for the patient; and, delays in arranging home durable medical equipment or home health services.
- The four outliers in this graph illustrate the impact of social issues on the patient's observation LOS (data points 903, 490, 388). To identify and begin addressing social issues as early as possible after patients arrive in the ED, a case manager and a social worker have been assigned to the ED seven days a week from late morning to early evening.
- The blue trend line illustrates that the gap between the maximum LOS and the minimum LOS is declining (favorable) showing not only an improved ability to manage LOS overall, but also the declining maximum patient LOS

# Observation Patients cont.



- The goals of improvement efforts are twofold: reduce variation in practice and move the measure of performance in the desired direction.
- This slide illustrates the weekly median length of stay in observation. The median, rather than average, is presented here to minimize the mathematical impact of the extreme outliers described early.
- September 4 through October 29 shows a jagged line representing a large amount of variability in practice (unfavorable). This type of process performance is difficult to manage and is also unpredictable.
- At the beginning of November, the line flattens indicating a more stable process (favorable). The week of December 11-17 shows a decline (favorable). Both of the aforementioned goals of improvement are seen in this graph.

# Observation Patients cont.



- As stated previously, the goals of improvement efforts are twofold: reduce variation in practice and move the actual in the desired direction.
- In this case, the percentage of observation patients with a LOS of <48 hrs. should be as high as the clinical population allows. The target of 48 hours is the initial performance target with the ultimate target of LOS <24 hours.
- This graph illustrates that the variability begins to flatten out towards the end of October (favorable) and then demonstrates an increase the beginning of December (favorable).

# Transition Hospital to a Six-Day Organization

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Overall Initiative Status:  

Month-to-Month Status:  

Financial/Budget Impact: TBD

- In December the Hospitalists group implemented overnight onsite physician to help prepare patients for discharges earlier in the day.
- Implemented interdisciplinary patient rounds for inpatients with a length of stay >10 days to identify and resolve barriers to discharge
- Implemented twice a day case management rounding
- Extended MRI and patient transportation services to include weekend coverage
- Adjusted social worker scheduled to accommodate 8 hrs of coverage on Sat and Sun
- Created and deployed a new daily work tool for case management to manage patient LOS based on Interqual and Milliman expected discharge date v. actual LOS

## SHW ADM CASE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA EVAL REPORT

ROOM	PATIENT NAME	TYPE	ACCOUNT #	REASON FOR VISIT	VISIT DIAGNOSIS	ACT INTO					ELOS &	
						LOS	ELOS	PP	CO	QL	LOS/DIFF	
550		ADM IN	E00000907337	DIZZY LIGHTHEADED ASTHMA	CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE, U	3					3	
522		ADM IN	E00000907385	CHEST PAIN	CHEST PAIN, UNSPECIFIED	2	2	N	Y	N	0	
533	Patient names removed from this column to protect their confidentiality.	ADM IN	E00000907406	RESP DISTRESS	CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE W	2					2	
548		ADM IN	E00000907415	VOMITING	GASTROINTESTINAL HEMORRHAGE, UNSPECIFIED	2	5	N	Y	N	-3	
510		ADM IN	E00000907427	WEAKNESS	WEAKNESS	2	2	N	Y	N	0	
525		ADM IN	E00000907484	SOB	HEART FAILURE, UNSPECIFIED	2	3	N	Y	N	-1	
548		ADM IN	E00000907492	CHEST PAIN	HYPERKALEMIA	2	4	N	Y	N	-2	
556		ADM IN	E00000907554	CHEST PAINS	ST ELEVATION (STEMI) MYOCARDIAL INFARCTI	2	5	N	Y	N	-3	
519		ADM IN	E00000907606	SWOLLEN FOOT	HEART FAILURE, UNSPECIFIED	2					2	
506		ADM IN	E00000907753	CHEST PAIN	CHEST PAIN, UNSPECIFIED	2					2	
508		ADM IN	E00000907417	7 MONTHS PREGNANT SEIZURE	UNSPECIFIED CONVULSIONS	1					1	

ACT LOS = current LOS, INTQ ELOS = InterQual Expected LOS, PP = Placement Problem, CO = Comorbidities, QL = Qualis Delay, DIFF = Difference in Days

# Patient Stay Outliers

	on 12/20/2016	on 1/27/2017
Total census ( <i>excluding BHU</i> )	107	118
Patients < 10 days LOS	89	85
Patients >= 10 days LOS	18	27
Patients >= 10 days LOS: % of Total	17%	23%
ALOS for patients > 10 days	19.4	17.4
ALOS of patients < 10 days	3.13	3.35
Percentage of <u>patient days</u> from patients with LOS > 10 days	56%	67%
Patient days for patients > 10 days	350	

<u>Reasons:</u>		
Placement Delay	6	1
Social Issues	2	1
Acute		13
No Beds/Bed Loss		1
Physician Delays		1
Service Delays		1
State Delay (OOS/Qualis)	4	2
Other Insurance / Self-pay	6	1
Planned Discharge for Weekend		2
Discharge Today		4

# Patient Experience of Care

Overall Initiative Status: 

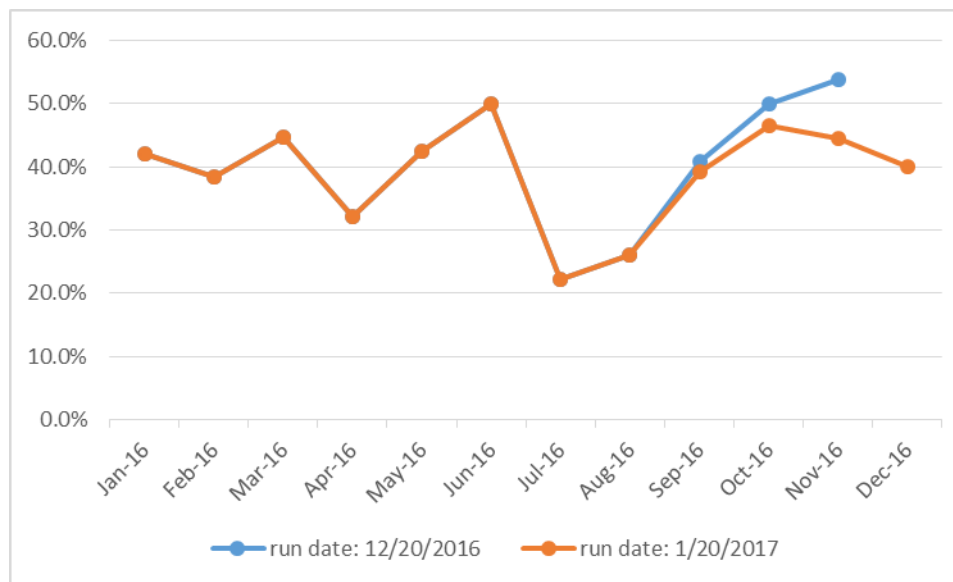
Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: TBD

- Nurse hourly rounding: Forty direct observations demonstrated that hourly rounding is occurring.
- Findings:
  - Greeted patients - 92.5% of the observations;
  - Assessed and addressed pain - 90.6%;
  - Positioned /re-positioned patient - 85.7%;
  - Ensured patient's possessions were in reach - 85.7%; and
  - Assessment of patient's bathroom needs - 65.7% of the observations.
- Follow-up interventions:
  - Incorporate 4Ps into orientation process – Purposeful Hourly Rounding;
  - Collate findings and report to management; and
  - Increase staff's attention to patient bathroom needs during the rounding process.
- The Performance Improvement Committee completed its initial hospital-wide, cross-departmental improvement plan of 20 departments and 45 interconnecting activities all geared to improving the patient's experience of care.
  - Goal: Every department assessing their contribution to patient satisfaction.

# Patient Experience of Care

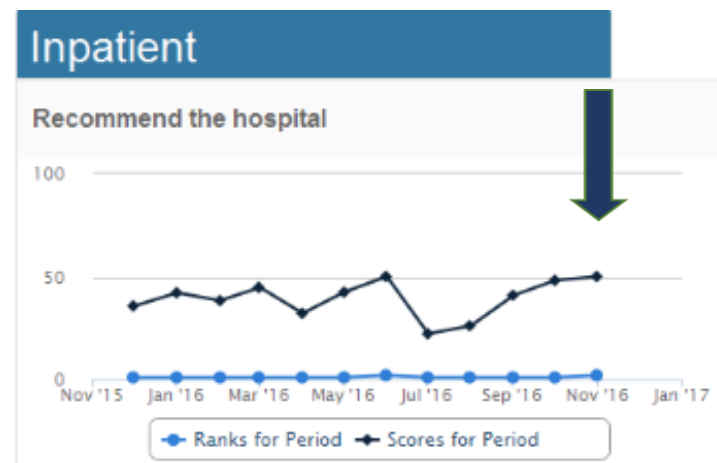
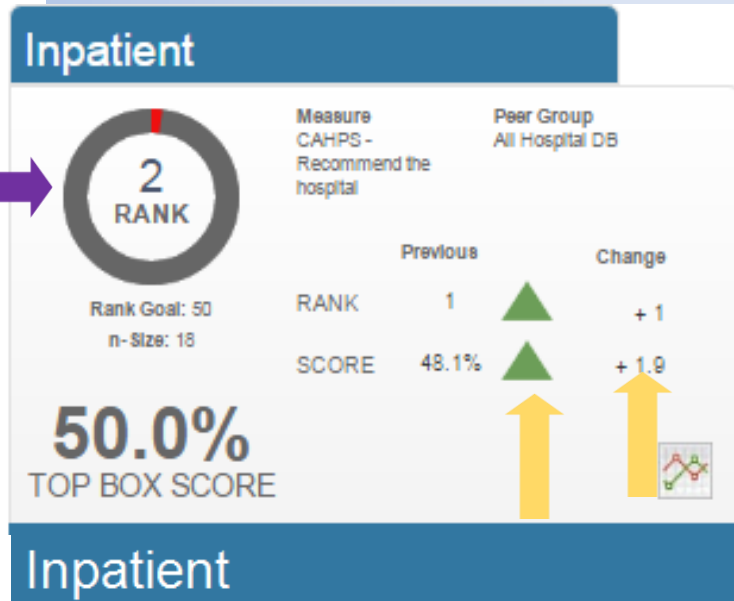
## Press Ganey: HCAHPS “recommend hospital”



	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Sample Size (n): 12/20/16	38	47	36	28	33	28	18	23	22	26	13	
Sample Size (n): 1/20/17	38	47	38	28	33	28	18	23	23	28	27	10
Available Respondents	600	609	690	585	571	560	547	574	559	533	583	660
Response Rate	6.3%	7.7%	5.5%	4.8%	5.8%	5.0%	3.3%	4.0%	4.1%	5.3%	4.6%	1.5%
Avg Industry Response Rate	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%

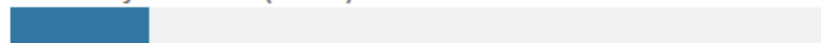
# November 2016 Press Ganey: Inpatient Perceptions of Care by Service Date Accessed 12/30/16

Recommend the hospital – November 1-30, 2016

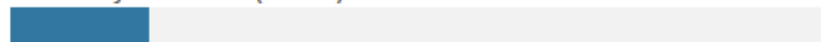


## Recommend the hospital - Distribution of Responses

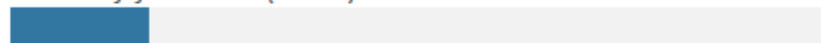
Definitely no: n = 3 (16.7%)



Probably no: n = 3 (16.7%)



Probably yes: n = 3 (16.7%)



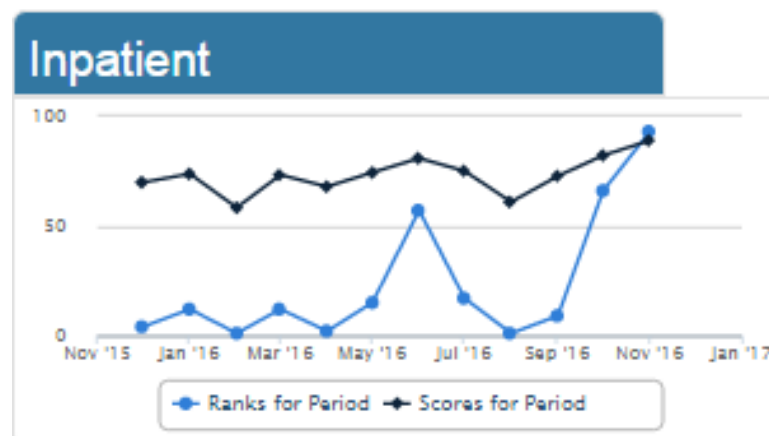
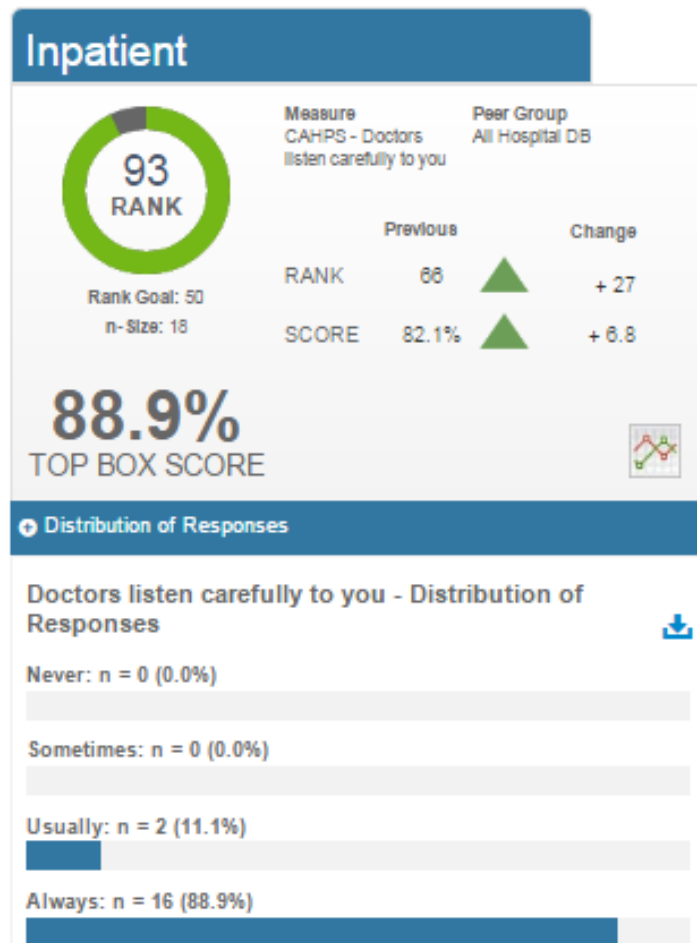
Definitely yes: n = 9 (50.0%)





# November 2016 Press Ganey: Patient Perceptions of Care by Service Date Accessed 12/30/16

Doctors listen carefully to you - November 1-30, 2016



# SNF: Migrate to a Skilled Level of Care Model

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Overall Initiative Status: 

Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: TBD

- Identified clients who no longer need or meet criteria for long-term care
- Continue to work with the Mayor's Office to find alternative housing for select patients
- Isolation Room construction removed 12 beds from service
- With limited availability, we've been challenged to increase the percent of Medicare and short-term rehab clients

# Improve Revenue Cycle

Overall Initiative Status: 

Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: TBD


- We support the creation of a seamless revenue cycle process like every other hospital in which the management and oversight of all functions are managed by the CFO.
- The Board will be engaged to approve the organizational structure and the end-to-end process prior to implementation
- Prior to this decision to migrate the front-end functions to the OCFO, we have redesigned and implemented various improvements in the front-end.
  - Created and deployed a new daily work tool for case management to actively manage LOS daily to minimize avoidable days and denials
  - Redesign of the ED front-end process to migrate to a rapid triage and treatment model of care

# Improve Revenue Cycle cont.

- In collaboration with the appropriate stakeholders, we've been redesigning the current case management department to separate the insurance functions from patient care functions
  - This will allow care managers to focus on patient care and utilization review staff to focus on front end denial prevention.
- The observation status improvement effort
  - Began in September; education and implemented occurred in October; and weekly results have been monitored by the Veritas Quality Consultant since implementation and distributed to the hospitalists and ED physicians.
  - Results have continued favorable as shown in earlier graphs.



# Improve Revenue Cycle cont.

- A real-time throughput dashboard has been designed and implemented so that the CEO, clinical leaders, and other stakeholders may monitor hospital census, patient throughput, bottlenecks, pending discharges and admissions observation patient on an ongoing basis. This information helps to facilitate patient throughput to maximize inpatient bed utilization.

 <b>THROUGHPUT DASHBOARD</b>							
Unit	Obsv	Inpt	Total Cens	Active DC Orders	Unit Capacity	% Occup	
3 - East Med/Surg	0	30	30	3	32	93.75%	
4 - East BHU	0	8	8	0	10	80.00%	
4 - West BHU	0	9	9	0	10	90.00%	
5 - West Med/Surg Tele	3	54	57	3	54	105.56%	
ED admitted (pending trans)	0	8	8	0		0.00%	
ICU - A	0	6	6	1	8	75.00%	
ICU - B	0	5	5	1	8	62.50%	
L&D	3	0	3	0	7	42.86%	
Nursery	0	2	2	0	14	14.29%	
OB GYN	0	4	4	0	11	36.36%	
<b>HOUSE TOTALS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>85.71%</b>	
<b>BED BOARD</b>							
BedStatus <input type="text"/> Count <input type="text"/>							
# Bed requests assigned 1							
# Bed requests pending 10							
<b>TODAY SINCE MIDNIGHT (Real-Time)</b>							
Observation admits 3							
Inpatient admits 21							
<b>TOTAL ADMITS TODAY 24</b>							
Observation d/c 1							
Inpatient d/c 15							
<b>TOTAL DISCHARGES TODAY 16</b>							
<b>United Medical Nursing Center</b>							
SNF Total Census 107							
SNF Total Capacity 109							
<b>SNF Occupancy 98.17%</b>							

# Complete SEIU & DCNA Negotiations

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Overall Initiative Status:   
Month-to-Month Status:   
Financial/Budget Impact: TBD

- DCNA:
  - Arbitration commenced on 1/23/17
  - On 1/23/17 DCNA entered their exhibits and called witnesses to testify on their behalf
  - On 1/24/17 UMC entered exhibits and testimony into the record
- Five Points of Impasse
  - Article 10 – Joint Committees and Councils
  - Article 12 – Hours of Work / Scheduling
  - Article 32 – Wages
  - Article 43 – Retirement Plan
  - Article 48 – Term of Agreement
- Next Steps: Arbitrator will review exhibits, testimony, and transcripts and deliver a verdict for either UMC or DCNA for each of the 5 impasse positions

# Effectively Manage Staffing and Overtime Utilization

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## **Nurse Recruiting**

Overall Initiative Status: 

Month-to-Month Status: 

Financial/Budget Impact: TBD

### • ED Staffing

- # of Budgeted Nursing Positions Currently Open: 8.1 openings, an additional 5.4 are pending approval
- # of Nurses Hired in Past 45 days:
  - ED: 3 hired
  - Declined offers: 1 ED RNs
- # of Nurses Resigned in Past 45 days: 1 (transferred to ICU)

### • Inpatient Staffing

- # of Budgeted Nursing Positions Currently Open:
  - Inpatient: 2.1 openings
  - Budget assumes avg. daily census of 105 inpatients
- # of Nurses Hired in Past 45 days:
  - Inpatient: 2 hired
- # of Nurses Resigned in Past 45 days:
  - Inpatient: 1 terminated
- Nov – avg. daily census = 115 patients (110 inpatient & 5 observation)
  - 10 additional patients => 2 additional nurses or 9.4 FTEs for 24/7 coverage
- Dec – avg. daily census = 119.8 patients (110 inpatient & 9.8 observation)
  - 15 additional patients => 2.5 additional nurses or 12.6 FTEs for 24/7 coverage

# Effectively Manage Staffing and Overtime Utilization cont.

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## Four (4) Step Recruiting Strategy

### 1. Advertising

- *The Washington Post*
- *Zip Recruiter*
- *LinkedIn*
- *UMC Website*

### 2. University Partnerships

- *Chamberlain College of Nursing*
- *Howard University, College of Nursing*
- *Bowie State University*
- *Washington Adventist University*
- *Prince Georges Community College*
- *Coppin State University*
- *Kaplan University*
- *University of District of Columbia*
- *Montgomery College*

### 3. Health/Career Fairs

- *Nursing and Healthcare Career Expo – (Annually) Job Fair*
- *Nursing.com Career Fair – (Annually) – Job Fair*
- *UMC Open House*

### 4. Hospital Initiatives

- *Referral Program*
- *Relocation Allowances*
- *Skills enhancement compensation for key positions*
- *Health Resources and Services Administration Grant \*\*\**

\*\*\* See Appendix



# Issues and Concerns

# Issues and Concerns

- Construction Impact on Operations
  - Bed availability:
    - 8<sup>th</sup> floor patient room refresh project Med/Surg unit is scheduled to be completed at the end of February.
    - Isolation room tower (12 SNF beds and 4 Med/Surg beds) is scheduled to be completed at the end of February.
  - Mitigating Strategy:
    - Frequent discussions with hospitalists and case management to expedite patient discharges
- Limited availability of financial data for decision making

# Issues and Concerns cont.

- Key personnel
  - CIO – Status: interim CIO started 1/24/17
  - Director of Radiology – Status – 2 candidates in final selection
  - Director of Materials Manager – Status: final negotiations with vendor
- Retention and recruitment
  - Mitigating strategies:
    - Engaged security labor firm to increase security in the ED (two officers 24/7)
    - Developing a comprehensive recruitment strategy
- High percentage of patients with social issues
  - Mitigating strategy:
    - Case Management and Social Workers focusing on discharge
- Employee morale
  - DCNA – negotiations are in arbitration
  - Non-union employees have not received salary increases in more than 2 years
  - Mitigating Strategies:
    - Working with unions to improve morale

# Issues and Concerns cont.

- Age of Facility
  - Electrical overloads
  - Plumbing / leaking pipes
  - HVAC
  - Nurse call bell system
  - Mitigating Strategies:
    - Addressed via capital projects
- Repeal of ACA and repercussions related to insurance coverage. Presently 96% of District patients are covered by insurance



# Appendix

# HRSA (Health Resources and Service Administration) Programs

NFPHC Confidential

## HRSA (Health Resources and Service Administration) Programs

**NURSE Corps Scholarship Program** enables students accepted or enrolled in a diploma, associate, baccalaureate, or graduate nursing programs, including RN to BSN, RN to MSN-NP, Direct Entry MSN-NP program to receive funding for tuition, fees and other educational costs in exchange for working at an eligible NURSE Corps site upon graduation.

HRSA health professions loan repayment, scholarship and loan programs help to encourage and enable clinicians to work in underserved areas.

The NURSE Corps Scholarship Program is a selective program of the U.S. Government that helps alleviate the critical shortage of nurses currently experienced by certain types of health care facilities located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Upon graduation, NURSE Corps Scholarship recipients work at these facilities for at least two years, earning the same competitive salary and benefits as any new hire.

As much as half of the award funds are reserved for students pursuing a master's level nurse practitioner degree.

To learn more about the Nurse Corps Repayment Program, please visit:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/>