

Highland Physician Services, P.A.

Understands just how important it is for your patients to receive the same high level of care they receive from you and your practice when seen in your office. We are committed to providing all referring physicians with the finest Hospitalist care and management services in order to achieve the best continuity-of-care for your patients while maintaining the highest levels of patient satisfaction.

What is a Hospitalist?

Your Hospitalist is a physician who specializes in caring for patients during their stay in the hospital. These doctors are fully trained physicians, board certified in Internal Medicine, and work in close consultation with the patient's primary care physician. They also work closely with the other specialty physicians involved in the patient's care during the hospital stay. Our Hospitalists are able to focus all of their time and attention on hospitalized patients because they do not have outside practices.

How does a Hospitalist benefit the referring physician?

Hospitalists provide excellent, continuous care for referring physicians' patients, resulting in substantial benefits to their own practice, including:

- Efficient office time with patients leads to increased revenue
- More flexibility in scheduling as a result of decreased call responsibilities
- Potential decrease in medical malpractice premiums
- Better lifestyle, more family/personal time opportunities
- More focused CME on outpatient skills

How would patients be referred to a Hospitalist?

- Patients are referred to a Hospitalist by their physician. The Hospitalist program is a **voluntary** program for use by the attending medical staff at the hospital.
- When a PMD refers a patient to the Hospitalist service, the Hospitalist will honor all referral patterns that the PMD requests. No changes in referral patterns will occur.
- Since the Hospitalists have no outside practices, all patients will be referred back to the originating attending physician.
- Patients who do not have a physician or whose physician does not have privileges at the hospital can also be referred to the Hospitalist.
- Private medical and surgical patients can be admitted to the Hospitalist service for inpatient medical management.

What does the Hospitalist know about the patient?

The Hospitalist communicates with the patient's private physician on a regular basis. He/she will speak with that physician to discuss the patient's condition, medical history and care plan when the patient is admitted to the hospital and, as necessary, during the hospital stay. At the time of discharge, the Hospitalist will let the doctor know what follow-up care should be necessary.

How does a Hospitalist benefit the patient?

The Hospitalist ensures continuity-of-care from the time of admission to discharge. The Hospitalist is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the event of an emergency. Their familiarity with the specialists and departments in the hospital allows them to more efficiently coordinate care and monitor patient progress, while continuing the consultant referral

patterns of each PCP patient. Because they are in the hospital throughout the day, they are better able to follow up on tests and to make necessary adjustments in a timely manner based upon the results. Since Hospitalists dedicate their time only to inpatient care while in the hospital, they are more available to answer questions that patients may have about their treatment and recovery. Studies have shown that Hospitalists improve the quality of care a patient receives and can contribute to a reduced length of stay in the hospital.

What is a Hospitalist's role in patient discharge?

The Hospitalist will prescribe medication for the patient to take when leaving the hospital and advise the patient's physician so that he/she can take care of future prescriptions. The Hospitalist will contact the physician to summarize the patient's hospital treatment, advise the physician of medications and discuss future course of care. At that time, patient care will be referred back to the private physician for follow-up.

How does a Hospitalist benefit the Hospital?

- Reduced patient length of stay
- Increased medical staff and patient satisfaction
- Decreased emergency department turnaround time
- Improved communication with referring physicians
- Improved continuity-of-care for patients
- Improved compliance with quality measures
- Integration with teaching programs
- A thorough respect for the individual "cultures" that exist at each institution
- Complete understanding of the nuances of each Primary Care Physician (PCP)

Excellence in Patient Care