



Allegan General Hospital Successfully Introduces New Bariatric Procedure with Focus on Safety for Their Patients

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Allegan General Hospital is a not-for-profit, Critical Access Hospital in Allegan, MI.

Affiliates:

Allegan Medical Clinic
Gobles Medical Clinic
Otsego Medical Center

Mission: To provide exceptional, compassionate, personalized healthcare to our community.

ROI: Successful implementation of a new bariatric procedure has provided a new service to the community while providing a new revenue source for the hospital.

SITUATION

In late 2008, Allegan General Hospital, a Critical Access Hospital, opted to close their OB and Inpatient Psych departments for many reasons, but primarily due to declining reimbursements. The hospital considered alternative service lines that could enhance benefits to the community, including Lap Banding which is a relatively new bariatric procedure.

SERVICE NEEDS

The hospital partnered with The Risk Management & Patient Safety Institute (RM&PSI) to help streamline the processes associated with risk identification and mitigation, and potential liability. They looked to The RM&PSI to identify best practices to provide safe implementation of the new procedure.

SOLUTIONS

Consultative services with The RM&PSI included a risk assessment, the development of a written action plan with recommendations to mitigate potential risks, and the provision of tools to help ensure staff competency prior to the initiation of the new service line.

RESULTS

In the Fall of 2009, Allegan General Hospital performed its first Lap Band procedure. By the end of the first quarter of 2010, 10 Lap Band procedures had been performed. Approximately 20 patients are currently going through the pre-procedure program that includes weight loss and dietary methods, and counseling on lifestyle changes. The new service line has contributed to increased reimbursements and exceptional patient satisfaction feedback.

VALUE SUMMARY

"In partnering with The RM&PSI, we received expert advice and guidance to better focus on the needs of the bariatric patient pursuing Lap Banding as a weight loss option," said Linda Curry. "The RM&PSI assisted in providing a comprehensive review of our proposed program before it was implemented. The information provided by The RM&PSI was based upon best practices in the industry to make this procedure safer for our patients. Our patients continue to stay connected to the hospital and surgeons as they progress through their post-surgical phase and journey toward their life-changing weight loss goals."

