FDCARES

* Fire Departments have allowed the public to define their own emergency to utilize the 911 systems.
* Today 70-80% of fire department responses are related to requests for medical services, and a large percentage of those requests are non-life threatening
* In 2010, $38 billion in wasteful health care expenditures (each year)

Community Paramedic Program (article)

* Community paramedics receive 100 hours of training
* There are nine community paramedics on staff and three to five patients are visited per day (total patients: 762)
* The federal government penalizes hospitals with patients who return within 30 days of discharge
* $1.47 million, a three-year grant was awarded by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (May 2012). Community paramedic program went into full swing by 2013
* How the program works: Within 24-48 hours of discharge, community paramedic visits the patient at homes, nursing facilities, or wherever the patient resides, and they go through a checklist of follow-up questions
* Goal: keep people healthier and provide better care, care for patients who would “fall through the cracks”, prevent readmission
* With the grant from CMS: Patient’s aren’t charged, no insurance is billed
* Prosser hospital district is one of few in the state that owns and operates its own EMS system, reaching over Yakima Valley and Benton County
* Cost of readmission: $9,500
* Program saved PMH ~$499,000 last year

Houston Paramedics

* There are ~230 paramedic programs in the country
* Houston has a six member group
* In the first year, almost two-thirds of the patients who worked with community paramedics reduced their 911 usage

Dallas Paramedics

* Number of 911 calls has increased by 17% in the last five years
* Many of the callers are “frequent fliers”
* Mobile Community Healthcare Program successfully helped cut the amount of calls from some of those frequent fliers from more than two a month to none a month
* Program has six paramedics who have visited 73 patients in the first year with 32 patients in the program. Average age: 56. Youngest is 24 and the oldest is 82
* 26 patients “graduated” from the program (no longer need medical assistance)
* Former frequent fliers went from calling twice a month to .28 calls a month since entering the program

Fort Worth, TX Paramedics

* MedStar program – Metropolitan Ambulance Authority
* 5.5 full time employees, one community paramedic on duty 24/7 with one additional paramedic working weekdays
* MedStar found 21 patients had been transported to local EDs a total of 800 times over a 12-month period generating more than $950,000 in ambulance charges alone
* Tuscan Fire Department identified 50 individuals responsible for 300 non-emergency calls over a 12-month period
* Frequency of 911 calls from the program’s 326 enrollees fell by 76.5%, from an average of 76.3 monthly calls during the 12-month period before enrollment to 17.9 monthly calls afterward
* Program led to savings of $321,500 in ambulance and ED charges ($2,572 per patient)
* Data on 44 patients with 12-month pre-enrollment and post-graduation data revealed EMS transport charges for patients fell by more than $1.18 million, (annual $26,818 per patient)

References

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