

7-C: Addressing Disparities in Kidney Transplant in a Rural Community Hospital

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Care Category | Subcategory: Care Team Member Experience

PROBLEM / OPPORTUNITY

The current process for kidney transplant recipients requires the patient to have excess funds saved for peri-transplant expenses, including housing caregivers while the patient is admitted to the hospital. Currently hospital rooms have limited space for a family member. By providing a comfortable space for the family member, we can decrease the amount of money required while continuing to provide emotional support for the recipient and ultimately improves the patient experience.

IDEA SUMMARY

Kidney transplantation is the best treatment for end stage kidney disease (ESKD). The state of South Carolina, compared nationally, has a higher incidence of ESKD and lower rates of transplantation. MUSC Mid-Carolinas at Lancaster is a unique transplant program based at a rural community hospital. Many of the transplant recipients in our region are from rural, disparate sociocultural and socioeconomic (SES) status and have limited capacity to secure the temporary living arrangements for their supportive family member to accompany them to the hospital. This is a barrier for listing some patients who cannot afford a hotel stay around the time of transplant. By improving the space that we currently have, we can support the overnight stay of family members while the patient is in the hospital. It will decrease the required amount of money for a patient to get listed for transplant and ultimately increase access to transplant.

VALUE PROPOSITION / BENEFITS

This idea augments the experience of organ recipients and their family at MUSC Lancaster. A dedicated suite that supports comfortable living accommodations for a family member to remain in-room with the patient will decrease the amount of money required peri-transplant and hence, increase access to transplantation. It also allows the patient's caregiver to participate in learning to care for this new lifestyle around kidney transplant, including immunosuppressive medications and diet.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Construction renovation would be needed to customize a room on 5th floor in our transplant sector with finish upgrades, additional living area furnishings including a pull-out sofa bed, recliner, table, clothing armoire and cabinetry for laboratory equipment and supply storage.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

This plan is sustainable in accordance to regular plant operations maintenance, supply stocking and applicable regulatory and accreditation mandates in the RHNs.

METRICS / RESULTS

Success of this novel approach to facilitate an optimal healing environment and successful transition of care for kidney transplant recipients/donors will be evaluated through both inpatient and medical practice satisfaction surveys administered through Press Ganey in addition to post transplant outcomes compliance with discharge instructions upon practice follow up. The transplant social worker will monitor the additional number of patients listed as a result of this change.

BUDGET / FINANCIALS

Construction estimated at \$15,000 which includes aesthetic room renovations, furniture upfitting, and supply cabinetry with projected completion taking approximately 120 days from concept phase to close.