

OUR NEWS

Here at Sumter Regional Hospital, our goal is to give quality care to the people in our communities. We set our standards high because that's what our customers deserve. We are all committed to providing quality healthcare. **But what is quality care and who defines it?**

Reimbursement for care continues to decline. Cuts in Medicaid and Medicare are placing financial pressures on all hospitals (especially hospitals in rural areas) making it critical that we be good stewards of our resources. To ensure our continued success in providing quality healthcare to our community, SRH is embarking on new program entitled **The Pathway to Excellence**. The goal of this program is to ensure that as much of our valuable resources as possible go toward delivering quality healthcare.

I am excited about **The Pathway to Excellence** initiative. As a team it is imperative that we define quality healthcare and take the steps to meet the highest of standards. We must learn new methods and tools for reducing Quality Waste. We must expand the tools and skills of every leader and manager throughout the organization. By taking these proactive steps today, we can ensure that we continue to provide our community with the highest quality of care in the future.

Quality Waste can be defined as waits, delays, unnecessary motion, rework and other forms of waste that consume our time and resources but do not contribute to patient care. In fact, these forms of Quality Waste actually may contribute to poor experiences for the patient. In the months ahead, we will reevaluate all of our care processes. As a result of tackling "Quality Waste" we expect to also improve our financial performance. A solid financial footing is key to fulfilling our mission, providing the best patient care, the very latest technology, and maintaining excellent staff.

SRH has teamed up with the nationally known firm of Chip Caldwell & Associates. Chip Caldwell, President and faculty member of ACHE, will be assisting us on **The Pathway to Excellence**. Mr. Caldwell and his team are well known for their knowledge in the deployment of strategic quality systems. They have assisted hundreds of hospitals in such critical areas as patient throughput, improving OR capacity, and reducing ED wait times, and improving patient satisfaction scores.

Beginning on Monday, April 10th, SRH will embark on a 100-day plan to reduce waste in the organization. Quality is everyone's responsibility at SRH, and as such, each employee has an opportunity to shape **The Pathway to Excellence**. Chip Caldwell & Associates has helped hospitals save millions of dollars by doing a systematic review of their workflows and procedures.

In each edition of the *Vital Signs*, we will provide you with a progress report highlighting our accomplishments and tracking our progress in the execution of our 100-Day Action Plans. If you have examples of departments actively addressing Quality Waste, we want to hear about and feature their accomplishments in future editions of *Vital Signs*. To submit a story please contact Marcus Johnson in Marketing & Public Relations at ext. 6812.

Thanks in advance for your assistance in this initiative, and thank you for all the hard work that you do for Sumter Regional Hospital and the community!



DAVID SEAGRAVES

STRAIGHTTALK WITH

Sumter Regional Hospital to Celebrate National Hospital Week in May

Annual event to include employee events as well as Community Health Fair

Sumter Regional Hospital will join thousands of hospitals across the nation as it celebrates National Hospital Week from May 7-13.

National Hospital Week began in 1921 and has grown into the nation's largest annual health care event. The May 7-13 celebration recognizes the work of hospitals and promotes greater awareness in the community through activities such as tours and educational programs.



This year, Sumter Regional Hospital is planning a week-long celebration for its employees as well as activities for the community. Hospital employees will be treated to a picnic at the end of the work week on Friday, May 12, and there will be other surprises throughout the week.

There will also be activities for the community, as hospital employees will be visible in schools and other community events. Sumter Regional Hospital will culminate the end of National Hospital Week on Saturday, May 13 by offering a free health fair to the entire community and surrounding areas. Here is list of the services that will be offered at the health fair, which will be located in the employee parking across from the hospital.

- o Weight and Blood Pressure
- o Pulmonary Function Testing
- o Glucose and Cholesterol Testing
- o Body Fat Analysis
- o Grip Strength Test
- o Nutrition Information
- o Mammography Education
- o Foot Densitometry
- o Diabetic Education
- o Stroke Assessment
- o "Vial Of Life"
- o SRH Foundation Information
- o Health Careers and Recruitment
- o Cardiac Catheterization Lab
- o Health Education and Wellness Information
- o Vision Screening

If you would like more information regarding National Hospital Week and activities for this week, or if you are interested in having someone from the hospital visiting your organization, please call (229) 931-1325.