“IMPROVING OUTCOMES OF ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME PATIENTS THROUGH DISEASE SPECIFIC CARE CERTIFICATION”

Abstract

Cardiovascular disease remains the number one killer of Americans, accounting for over 800,000 deaths in 2008. Improving a hospital’s performance by obtaining and maintaining The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification is one method of impacting acute coronary syndrome patient outcomes. The purpose of this capstone project was to provide consultation services to ready the cardiology division of a large community hospital in south Mississippi for the process of obtaining Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification in the area of acute coronary syndrome. The activities of the consultation included facilitating an examination of the current organization of ACS patient care; reviewing core and performance measure data collected by the hospital for ACS patients; identifying variances in care and practice; and selecting performance measures to support the certification process. The consultation results included creating performance improvement plans to correct variances in care and practice; developing a more comprehensive staff, patient, and community education process; and addressing each component of The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification requirements and site review. The consultation was conducted with the Outcomes Coordinator of the study hospital’s cardiology division.