



Lincoln Hospital top 10 in national survey

(May 2008) Lincoln Hospital just keeps getting better.

With a trend toward standardizing care across the nation, CMS (Medicare) recently completed a survey of quality care measures for 2005-06. Wanting to improve and possibly exceed these quality measures, Lincoln Hospital took part in the study and did very well when compared to hospitals nation-wide.

"These kinds of surveys are to help hospitals become prepared for a new system of reimbursement — Pay for Performance," says Administrator Tom Martin. "Hospitals which meet higher standards will be reimbursed at a better rate therefore we're working to improve toward that goal."

So how did Lincoln Hospital measure up?

The survey showed Lincoln Hospital's surgical department is well above the state and national averages in preventing infection. Dr. Huntwork and her team have 100 percent rating in providing antibiotic before surgery and stopping antibiotic use at the appropriate time after.

"This keeps our infection rate very low and makes us one of the safest hospitals in the state to have surgery at," says Martin.

Lincoln's rating on Heart Failure treatment was also high. The staff scored 100 percent in three of four categories with giving smoking cessation advice coming in at 50 percent.

Looking at numbers for treatment of patients presenting in the ER with pneumonia, the news isn't as positive.

Lincoln Hospital rated 100 percent for giving immediate oxygenation assessments, smoking cessation advice and administering the appropriate initial antibiotic. However, it scored 50 percent on asking about/administering a pneumonia vaccination and giving an antibiotic within 4 hours of arrival. The total composite score for Lincoln's performance on pneumonia was 57.24 percent.

"Now that we're aware of these areas, Nursing Services is working to improve documentation to better capture this data," says Martin.

In all, Lincoln Hospital scored in the top 10 percentile in the nation on eight of ten appropriate care measures. "We're very proud of that and thank our medical staff for being committed to quality care," says Martin. "We will continue working to improve on these other areas. The community deserves no less."