



2013-17 Community Service Plan December 2015 Update

Introduction

This report was prepared to meet the requirements of NYS Public Health Law (Section 2803) for an annual update on implementation of the Hospital's Community Service Plan, and the Internal Revenue Service's requirements [Section 501(r)] for a Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment. Blythedale's 2013-2017 Community Service Plan addressed two health improvement priorities from the State's *Prevention Agenda*, including one selected by a coalition of local community hospitals and other community representatives convened by the Westchester County Department of Health – *increasing the proportion of babies who are breastfed*. However, as a specialty hospital serving children and adolescents, one of the priorities identified by the Westchester County Department of Health was not within Blythedale's mission and scope. Thus Blythedale selected a second priority from the State's Prevention Agenda which addresses an issue of concern to Blythedale and its community of referring hospitals -- *reducing infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms*.

Goal 1: Increasing the proportion of babies who are breastfed

By 2017, Blythedale seeks to increase the percentage of breastfeeding mothers of infants admitted to the hospital who are still breastfeeding at discharge, and the percentage of employees who are new mothers who utilize the Hospital's facilities to support their breastfeeding.

While Blythedale is not a "birth hospital," it does care for infants whose mothers have chosen to feed their children breast milk. The Hospital has a modern lactation room with private facilities for mothers to pump breast milk, and a dedicated refrigerator for its storage, as well as a hospital-grade breast pump and supplies. The Hospital's physicians, nursing staff, feeding therapists and clinical dietician work with nursing mothers to facilitate this process. Blythedale Human Resources policies support staff members who are nursing mothers.

While medical issues often create barriers to breastfeeding that are unique to Blythedale's patients, Blythedale has worked to enhance its program of support to new mothers so that those who have chosen to breastfeed continue to do so as long as possible during their child's stay at Blythedale and have the necessary resources to do so upon discharge.

2015 Accomplishments:

Blythedale has promoted awareness of benefits of breastfeeding with staff and patients' families by:

- Periodically updating the educational resource binder for breastfeeding mothers, copies of which are available in both the Hospital's lactation room and Family Resource Center
- Continuing to require annual completion of the self learning module on supporting breastfeeding mothers by all for medical and nursing staff
- Promoting and supporting breastfeeding in the work-place, including counseling of new mothers by the Hospital's Human Resources staff on the Hospital's policies and resources for breastfeeding mothers
- The Director of Nursing Education and Research will be coordinating periodic in-services with current BCH staff (feeding therapist and the lactation consult) and will also reach out to lactation consult (s) in the community to continue to provide an informational session (s) to enhance staff knowledge and education of supportive techniques related to lactation

- Supporting lactating mothers in continuing and improving their lactation status during their child's hospitalization at Blythedale through the services of a lactation consultant who provides individual counseling as needed
- Improving documentation of breast milk provision in Hospital's electronic health record so as to be able to better track formula vs. breast milk provision. In 2015 over 40% of infants admitted with their primary nutrition source being breast milk continued to consume breast milk as a source of nutrition at discharge

Goal 2: Reducing infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs)

Healthcare associated infections are the focus of many initiatives at the federal, state and hospital level. Of the various types of healthcare associated infections, those caused by multidrug-resistant organisms are the most appropriate target for Blythedale's efforts. Blythedale has had an aggressive infection control program to address all causes of healthcare associated infections, which has been extremely successful in controlling the incidence of such infections. However, it requires constant vigilance to maintain this low rate. Blythedale continues to seek ways to improve its ability to reduce infections caused by multidrug resistant organisms.

2015 Accomplishments:

- In 2015 Blythedale's cumulative incidence rate was 0.32 per 1,000 patient days for hospital-onset multidrug resistant organisms, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections and multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacterial infections which is a 16% reduction from the previous year. (2017 Goal= less than .05)
- Ultraviolet light disinfection is used to reduce amount of microbial contamination of environmental surfaces in patient care areas. Compliance steadily increased through the year toward the goal of treating isolation rooms bi-weekly and after all discharges.
- Blythedale has an active hand hygiene program, including education in hand hygiene and its importance in reducing the spread of infections. Hand Hygiene is subject of annual self-learning module for all staff.
- Patients identified with a MDRO are placed on contact precautions in a private room or cohorted with patients with the same resistant organism.
- Screening cultures are performed and reviewed for patients with past history of infection/colonization with a resistant organism, upon admission and when medically indicated due to a change in medical status.
- Staff is educated on MDROs, including routine feedback and data on infection rates
- Blythedale has enacted a proactive antimicrobial stewardship program, which flags antibiotic use in real time to insure that it is prescribed only for an infection.
- Policies and procedures are kept up to date and consistent with current Center for Disease Control guidelines. Quarterly reports are made to the Hospital's Infection Prevention and Control Committee and made available to staff through the Hospital's intranet

Other Blythedale Prevention and Health Promotion Community Service Activities

Blythedale provides a significant amount of community benefit programs including:

- **Eat Well, Be Well:** To help reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity and prevent its long-term negative health effects, over the past nine years Blythedale has brought its ***Eat Well, Be Well*** school-based nutrition education program into numerous school districts in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties. This program, with funding support from Kohl's Department Stores, provides school staff and students with the tools necessary to help children develop healthy eating habits through a comprehensive curriculum developed by Blythedale's registered dietitians. This program has reached more than 50,000 students, parents and school staff, with information on how to make food and lifestyle choices that will promote healthy living for a lifetime. Once again in 2015, the

program was presented to nearly 18,000 elementary and middle school students, and over a thousand adults.

- **CPR Training Center:** Blythedale is a Community Training Center for the American Heart Association, providing training in Heartsaver CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), Heartsaver AED (automated external defibrillator) and Heartsaver First Aid. In addition to Blythedale staff, those trained include health care professionals, members of local police and fire departments, students at area schools and staff from various community agencies. Blythedale has also offered Pediatric CPR training for the community and health care professionals, and is a certified Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Training Center. In 2015 nearly 4,000 people were trained in these programs
- **Injury Prevention:** As part of its injury prevention activities, Blythedale sponsors fitting and installation checks for both regular and special-needs car seats on site at the Hospital.