

Impact of a Palliative Care Program in a Community Hospital

Vicki McLawhorn, DNP, RN, FNP-BC
Sherrill Beaman, RHIA, CPHQ, MPH

Vidant Edgecombe Hospital

Disclosures- None

Introduction

- **Vidant Edgecombe Hospital** – 101 beds, rural community hospital
- Palliative Care improves bottom line and patient experience
- Journey to palliative program began in 2018

- Literature



Aim Statement:

**To reduce the O/E mortality rate and
readmission rate by 5% by Sept 2020**

Methods

- Partnered with Vidant Health End of Life team and VMC Palliative Care Department
- Developed Palliative Care clinical privileges for Hospitalist Lead and Advanced Practice Practitioner.
- Clarified metrics for program evaluation.
- Established trigger tool to identify potential referrals.



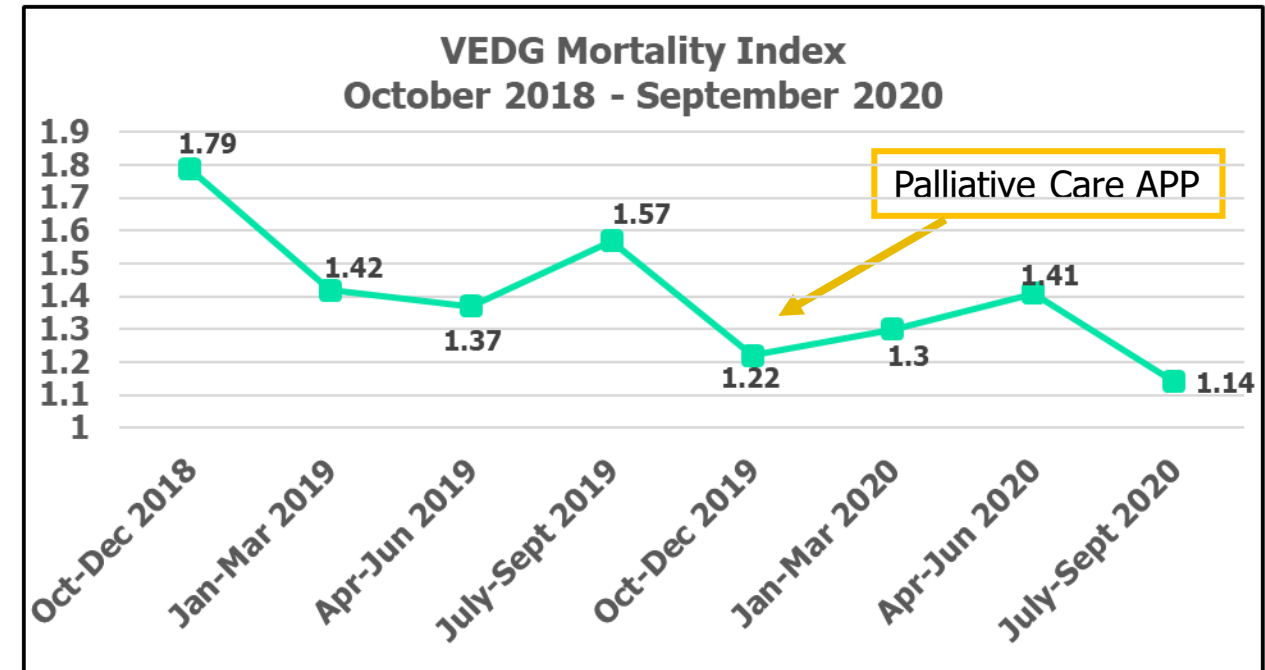
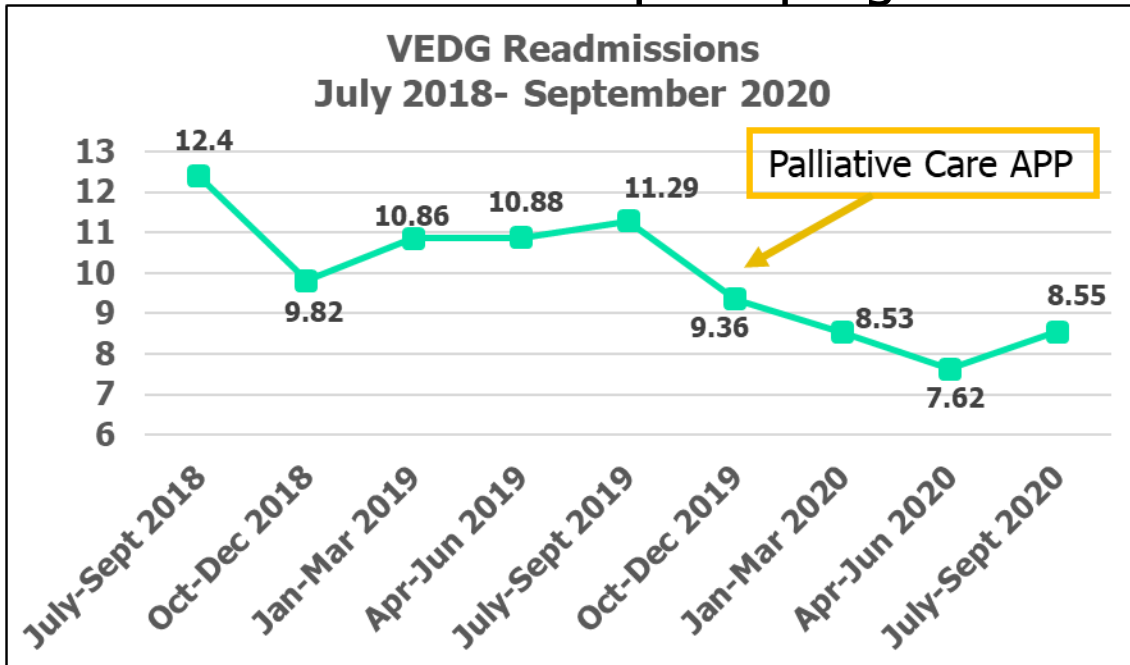
Results

- **Plan-** Develop plans and raise community awareness to provide suite.
- **Do-** Start palliative program; provide donated blankets and Butterfly Bags
- **Study-** Overall positive response from team members, patients and families.
- **Act-** Utilize process for all comfort care patients.



Results

- **Plan-** Develop Palliative Care program and process.
- **Do-** Select and credential Palliative Care APP and Physician Lead.
- **Study-** 10% of admitted patients seen by Palliative Care; increased Hospice referrals; decreased mortality and readmission rates.
- **Act-** Continue to expand program.



Conclusion

- A Palliative Care Program in a community hospital can be beneficial by providing collaborative, coordinated care for patients with serious illness.
- Program is a complementary support for hospital providers and team members.
- It does reduce mortalities and readmissions by prognostic awareness in patients and their families.



Thank you for the opportunity to share

References

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