Community Paramedicine in Michigan

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My Background

- Started as a P/T EMT in 2000
- Medic full time in 2001
- CCEMT-P
- FTO
- Supervisor
- Community Paramedic
What Is Community Paramedicine?

- Organic
- Adaptive
- Integrated
- Coordinated
Patient Story 1

- Diabetic
Recipe for a Community Paramedic (CP)

- Take a Paramedic
  - Add experience
  - Send them to more training
  - Give them different clinical experiences
  - Bring out the empathy
  - Capitalize on their problem solving skills
  - Give them some tools
What Do They Do?

• It Depends...
  • Community Needs Assessment
  • Whose idea was it?
  • Who is paying for it?

• The Short Answer?

   Community Paramedics Fill the Gaps in the Healthcare System
What Gaps?

- Follow Up Visits
- Assessment of Home Environment
  - Preventative
  - Reactive
- Non-Emergency 911
- High Utilizers
- And many, many more
Patient Story 2

▪ Wheelchair bound gentleman
Michigan’s Programs

- 11 Distinct Programs
- 13 Medical Control Authorities
Where are we Going

- Aiming for two tiers of Community Providers
- One level being assessment and communication based (more basic level)
- Second level interventional (and greater level of diagnostics)
Program Goals

- Effective, Efficient, Timely Healthcare
- Avoid unnecessary transports
- Relieve ED overcrowding
- Reduce hospital readmissions
- Lower healthcare costs
6 Months of Data (Mostly Complete)

- Difficult to judge because of difference in programs
- Decreased Readmission Rate of 70% (2 Distinct Programs)
  - Rough Savings of $467,400
- ER Diversions (1 program, 1 county)
  - 202 Diversions
  - $84,638 in ambulance costs
  - $195,738 in ED costs
6 Months of Data

- Established PCP relationships 503 Times
- Touched 2638 patients
- Found 69 medication errors
- Sent 383 patients to the hospital (15%)
• Hands on patients faster
• Access to patients
• Telehealth
• Education and health promotion
Rural Benefits (Agency)

- Decrease in non-reimbursable transports
- Utilization increases (scheduled visits, use of “down time”)
- Community building
Patient Story 3

- Can of Soup
Where to Start

- Agency
- Medical Control Authority
- Support
- Apply
• Questions?
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