Mercy Accountable Care Organization Celebrates Success in 2017

Mercy’s Accountable Care Organization (ACO) set out five years ago this year with the mission to redesign the delivery of health care to achieve the three-part aim, which includes improving health, improving the patient experience and lowering costs for all patients. Today Mercy ACO has grown its impact in Iowa and now represents 10% of Iowa’s entire population with over 300,000 attributed/covered lives under value-based contracts.

Mercy ACO Participant members and their nearly 3,000 employed providers have practice sites in over two-thirds of Iowa’s 99 counties as well as several counties in neighboring states. Working collaboratively with these members, Mercy’s ACO is improving the continuum of care for the populations we are privileged to serve and generating positive financial results from delivering care more efficiently.

- Since 2012 Mercy ACO has reduced health care expenditures for Iowan’s by over $65 million, resulting in nearly $40 million in value-based payment.
- The network now has 150+ care management professionals with over 500,000 documented care management encounters.

Mercy ACO was the first accountable care organization in Iowa and one of the first in the country. This innovation and growth have continued into 2017 with ACO Participants coming together to form three new Medicare Shared Savings Programs, including what is believed to be the first of its kind “Rural” Participant Medicare Shared Savings Program. This rural only program includes 31 of MHN’s affiliate/owned critical access hospitals and their partnered physicians providing coordinated care across a third of Iowa and parts of northeast Nebraska. This summer Mercy ACO will welcome its seventh chapter and surpass the 200 Participant member mark with the addition of Mercy Iowa City and its partnered physicians. As Mercy Iowa City has already begun preparations to join Mercy ACO value based contracts and agreed to collaboratively come together to work towards providing value-based care with MHN.

As we celebrate five years of the Mercy Accountable Care Organization, we look forward to the years ahead as Mercy ACO continues to prepare Mercy Health Network and its partnered Providers for future payment reform.

Q & A with Bob Ritz, CEO Mercy Health Network

Q: What are you most excited about as you start this new role?

A: I am excited to serve in this new role with Mercy Health Network (MHN) as we continue to evolve into an even more integrated Catholic health system in Iowa. Dave Vellinga built on the strong foundation established by the Sisters of Mercy and I am excited to continue their vision.

Getting to work with over 17,000 colleagues, who make up the fabric of the organization, is very exciting. Look for more information from your Market President about open sessions in your ministry. During the next few months, I will be visiting MHN locations across the state. I am eager to meet you and hear your ideas for the future.

When we all come together with our sponsors, Trinity and Catholic Health Initiatives, the MHN Board of Directors and our leadership team we can achieve amazing results.

Have questions for Bob? Email them to MHNinfo@mercydesmoines.org.
New Ottumwa Clinic Now Open

Mercy Clinics-Ottumwa’s newest state-of-the-art facility opened to patients on Tuesday, June 20. The 32,800 square-foot clinic is home to family medicine, internal medicine, and physical therapy services. Urgent care services will be offered beginning this fall.

“This new clinic will provide modern, patient-centered space to grow our practice in a 21st-century environment. Our expanded services will provide better quality and access to local health care for our patients. My partners and I look forward to the opportunity to grow and improve health care for Ottumwa and the surrounding area,” said Dr. Peter Reiter, Medical Director, Mercy Clinics-Ottumwa.

Mercy-North Iowa Receives Quality Achievement Award

Mercy-North Iowa has received the Mission: Lifeline® Bronze Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

“Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our patients who suffer a heart attack. The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline program is helping us accomplish this goal through nationally respected clinical guidelines,” said Samuel Congello, D.O., Interventional Cardiologist at Mercy Medical Center–North Iowa. “We are proud of the dedication and achievements of our team that have allowed us to be recognized for this award.”

Central Iowa Mom Credits Count the Kicks App with Saving Her Child’s Life

An Iowa mom credits the mobile app Count the Kicks for saving her daughter’s life. Emily Eekhoff was 33 weeks pregnant when she noticed her baby's movements had changed. Concerned, Eekhoff went to Mercy-Des Moines on May 30 to get checked out. The same day, a heart rate test and ultrasound revealed that Eekhoff’s baby was in distress and Emily had to undergo an emergency C-section, according to Dr. Neal Mandsager, Medical Director of the Perinatal Center at Mercy. They found the umbilical cord wrapped around the baby's neck three times. It’s very possible that this baby would not have made it much longer. Baby Ruby was born at 33 weeks and had a 10-day stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

“The app helped me know Ruby’s pattern of movement, so when the pattern changed, I knew something was wrong, which saved her life,” Eekhoff said. “Had I not known her patterns or been using the app, I might have waited longer, and that could have been too late.

Eekhoff said she is so grateful to Count the Kicks for empowering us and helping save Ruby. We are also deeply grateful to Mercy Medical Center and Dr. Neil Mandsager for telling moms about the importance of kick counting. They are powerful partners in saving babies.”

Mercy-Sioux City Sleep Lab Earns Accreditation

The Sleep Lab at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City has achieved accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC).

By achieving ACHC accreditation, the Mercy Sleep Lab has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest-quality service and patient care. Jim FitzPatrick, President and CEO of Mercy Medical Center, reiterates the results of the ACHC review. “Mercy is constantly focused on the welfare of our patients,” said FitzPatrick. “The decision by ACHC underscores the exceptional patient care that is being delivered at the Mercy Sleep Lab.”
Mercy-Des Moines and Kindred Healthcare Break Ground on Iowa's first Freestanding Rehabilitation Hospital

Mercy-Des Moines has partnered with Louisville, Kentucky-based Kindred Healthcare to build and operate the first freestanding rehabilitation hospital in Iowa. Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 1401 Campus Drive in Clive, is expected to open by the second quarter of 2018 and will provide care for patients recovering from stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation and other conditions.

“The two-story, 58,000-square-foot facility will feature 50 patient beds, along with gymnasiums outfitted for high-tech therapy devices and treatments; a dedicated brain injury unit complete with monitored rooms, specialized beds and patient lifting equipment; and separate therapy and dining spaces. The hospital will also have a unit exclusively for stroke patients, rooms specially equipped for bariatric patients, and private, family-friendly rooms with sleeper chairs.”

Covenant Medical Center Reveals $7.7 Million Renovation to Surgical Area

Covenant Medical Center revealed a $7.7 million renovation of its surgical services area that will benefit surgeons and their patients. The 18-month long project resulted in two new operating rooms and a renovated post-anesthesia care unit, as well as a reconstructed locker room, break room, control desk and nurses’ station.

“The new operating rooms are bigger than any others currently at Covenant, measuring 725 square feet,” said Shelly Burton, Wheaton Iowa Director of Surgical Services. “These rooms are necessary for our surgeons to perform large-scale surgical procedures. They can also accommodate our da Vinci® robotic equipment as needed. The rooms include state-of-the-art equipment, some of which was purchased with funds raised by the Covenant Foundation.”

American Heart Association Award Recognizes Mercy-Dubuque’s Commitment to Quality Stroke Treatment

Mercy Medical Center-Dubuque received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke™ Honor Roll. The award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Hospitals must achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all of the Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month periods, and achieve 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With The Guidelines®–Stroke quality measures to receive the Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.
Covenant Clinic Opens in Downtown Waterloo

Covenant Clinic added a new location in downtown Waterloo. The clinic provides health care services to patients of all ages and gives community members another entry point to the broad network of Covenant Clinic specialists and services offered by Wheaton Iowa.

“This Covenant Clinic is proud to have such a vast clinic offering in the metro area and in many rural communities throughout Northeast Iowa,” said Jeff Halverson, Vice President Physician Network.

Guttenberg Municipal Hospital to Join MHN This Fall

Mercy Health Network is excited to share the Board of Directors of Guttenberg Municipal Hospital (GMH) has approved a recommendation from their Strategic Partnerships Task Force to enter into a Letter of Intent with Mercy Health Network (MHN) to develop a management services agreement. GMH leaders said, “One of the key reasons for choosing MHN is to build synergy and work collaboratively with the other Mercy-affiliated hospitals throughout the county and region, including Mercy Medical Center in Dyersville and Central Community Hospital in Elkader. Task force members are convinced that GMH and Cornerstone Family Practice will be best supported by the combination of the MHN corporate division for rural health care, Mercy Medical Center-Dubuque, and the joint venture between Mercy Medical Center and Medical Associates Clinic in Dubuque.”

“Mercy-Dubuque is excited about the partnership with Guttenberg Municipal Hospital,” said Kay Takes, President of Mercy Medical Center–Dubuque. “We are eager to continue to work with this great community to advance care and service well into the future.”

16 Nurses Across MHN Recognized at the 100 Great Iowa Nurses Celebration

The 100 Great Iowa Nurses award recognizes nurses who have made meaningful, lasting contributions to their patients, colleagues, and the nursing profession, and are viewed as mentors to other nursing professionals. We are proud of MHN’s 16 honorees and thank them for their service! Nominations are now open for the 2018. Please nominate a nurse who is making a difference for patients, colleagues and nursing.

This video celebrates MHN’s 2017 honorees.

Mission

Mercy Health Network serves with fidelity to the Gospel as a compassionate, healing ministry of Jesus Christ to transform the health of our communities.

Values

- Reverence
- Integrity
- Commitment to those who are Poor
- Compassion
- Excellence
- Justice
- Stewardship