

Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle reduces opioid doses in the ED by 30 percent and discharge prescriptions by 44 percent

Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle Columbus, MS

Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle is a 315-bed acute care hospital located in Columbus, Mississippi. It has been caring for residents in the East Mississippi and West Alabama areas for more than 45 years. With more than 100 physicians and surgeons representing nearly every medical specialty, they provide a full range of comprehensive medical services.

Challenge

Across the nation, there has been an epidemic of overprescribing opioids, and hospitals have increasingly focused more on finding a solution to this problem. New Joint Commission standards and interest from Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation prompted Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle to pursue a reduction in opioid utilization within the hospital and reduce the number of opioid prescriptions generated for discharged patients.

Solution

In 2016, the hospital began a project to combat this issue in the Emergency Department (ED). In collaboration with ED leadership, Pharmacy developed reports to track opioid utilization, opioid prescriptions issued and the quantity prescribed. These reports were then communicated back to the ED medical staff.

In 2018, Baptist – Golden Triangle started participating in the Vizient Opioid Stewardship Collaborative to connect and learn from their peers, develop strategies to change policies, implement guidelines to improve opioid management and report their findings.

Results

From December 2016 to December 2018, the hospital realized a **30 percent** decrease in opioid doses administered in the emergency department. They also saw a **44 percent** decrease in doctor-ordered opioid prescriptions at the time of discharge for the same time period.

“During our opioid utilization reduction project, Jim Lichauer at Vizient Inc. facilitated our involvement in the Vizient Opioid Stewardship Collaborative, which further helped us learn strategies to track and reduce usage of opioids at our hospital. It was also critical to have regional support from Vizient Southern States to keep us on task and succeed.”

Ben Hughes
Director of Pharmacy
Baptist Memorial Hospital – Golden Triangle



For more information about our programming opportunities, contact us today at (770) 850-7400 or info@vizientsouthernstates.com.

Vizient Southern States is a membership alliance for not-for-profit health care providers that exists to ensure its members deliver high quality, cost-effective care by connecting them with the knowledge, solutions and expertise that accelerate performance.