

Case Study: Metrics

Hospital Information

CarolinaEast Medical Center New Bern, North Carolina

TeamHealth Services

Orthopedic Hospitalist General Surgery Hospitalist

Results

Orthopedic surgery volume increased 50% (2,973 cases/year to 4,456 cases/year)

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I can't imagine an orthopedic program could be better or more successful than it is here. TeamHealth designed a solution that makes our surgeons happy, ensures we always have call coverage and has helped to significantly increase orthopedic surgery volumes. It's a win-win-win.

Ronald May, MD

Vice President of Medical Affairs, CarolinaEast Medical Center

Challenge

CarolinaEast Medical Center is a 350-bed hospital located in New Bern, North Carolina. Several years ago the hospital faced challenges with its emergency call coverage for orthopedic patients. The local orthopedic physicians, while strong partners with the hospital, did not have enough physicians to take call to provide the hospital with 24/7 coverage while maintaining their private practices. CarolinaEast turned to the experts at TeamHealth, who ultimately worked with the hospital and the orthopedic physicians to design a hospitalist program that benefits all parties.

Solution

Under the program, TeamHealth provides orthopedic hospitalists to deliver comprehensive acute care services and outpatient follow up for patients who come to the hospital Emergency Department. Several of the local surgeons are engaged by TeamHealth, allowing them to provide occasional hospital weekend coverage. This allows for the private physicians to focus on their office-based practices so they can see more patients, which generate elective surgeries, while providing the opportunity for exposure to acute surgery on the weekends. The hospital benefits from having around-the-clock call coverage, as well as the additional surgical cases generated by the thriving local practice.

Results

Over the course of the more than seven years of partnership with TeamHealth, CarolinaEast has seen orthopedic surgery cases increase by nearly 1,500 cases per year, thanks to the effectiveness of the model. Additionally, TeamHealth's surgeons enjoy an extremely collegial relationship with the local orthopedic surgeons, which allows all physicians to rely on one another to ensure every patient gets appropriate, timely treatment, regardless of which surgeon handles the case.

