

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: WebEx

Voting Members Present: D. Lafreniere MD, P. Luthra MD, I. Moss MD, S. Scippa MD, R. Simon MD

Non-Voting Members Present: A. Horbatuck. C. Hyers

Clinical Council Subcommittee Present: T. Agresta MD, S. Allen MD, R. Andrews MD, E. Ballesteros MD, F. Celi MD, K. Dieckhaus MD, J. Greenfield MD, J. Hines MD, P. Kerr MD, B. Liang MD, E. Mortensen MD, D. Stanley MD, L. Wolansky MD

Guests: S. Ginnetti, D. Hayes, A. Sharma, G. Sznaj, L. Wall, K. Wallace

Dr. Lafreniere called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

- The minutes for the July 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- Faculty Requests
 - Department of Orthopedics
Division of Sports Medicine
Assistant Professor/Orthopedic Sports
New – 0.90 Clinical FTE UMG
Officially Approved
 - Department of Medicine
Division of General Medicine
Assistant Professor/Primary Care Farmington
New – 0.90 Clinical FTE UMG
Approved
 - Department of Medicine
Division of General Medicine
Assistant Professor/Primary Care Southington
New – 0.90 Clinical FTE UMG
Approved
 - Department of Medicine
Division of Infectious Disease
Assistant Professor
New – 0.70 Clinical FTE UMG
Approved
 - Department of Anesthesiology
Division of Anesthesiology
Assistant Professor
Replacement – 0.60 Clinical FTE UMG
Approved

- Financial Update

According to Mr. Sznaj, for the month of July, UConn Medical Group is better than budget by \$895,912 or 10.07%. Revenue is 7% ahead of budget mainly due to MOHS, Primary Care and Radiology. Expenses were under budget due to fringe benefits, medical contractual support & other purchased services. This year, fringe benefits amounted to \$3 million and prior year were \$6.9 million. This is due to the state taking on retirement costs directly but not other fringe benefits such as health, social security, Medicare etc. RVUs and encounters increased over last year. RVU's for Primary Care are substantially ahead of last year. The dashboard in Strata Mr. Sznaj presented shows an increase in Blue Cross and Managed Medicare but there a drop off in Medicare and Medicaid. In July, there were 112 new patients with the top three groups being ENT, Internal Medicine, and Neurosurgery. The increase in ENT was driven by the new providers. Stratasphere is a benchmarking tool within Strata that compares UCONN to over 400 hospitals. Stratasphere was showing UCONN mainly having a lower Case Mix index compared to other academic hospitals within the Strata system but the Length of Stay was mainly lower than others.

- Dr. Lafreniere asked about changes in Net ID's, Dr. Simon commented that, just before the meeting, there was an email with an explanation from Rob Darby. Dr. Stanley will follow up.

- No Surprises Act Legislation

The No Surprises Act, which is a federal law effective January 1, 2022, was discussed by Ms. Ginnetti who shared a PowerPoint presentation. This was passed to prevent patients from receiving unexpected bills. It also requires that uninsured patients or those who choose to not use their insurance to receive a "good faith estimate" of expected charges. ED and unscheduled services are not included at this time. Eventually, all insured patients will need to be provided with an estimate using an advanced explanation of benefits. There is a tight time frame for creating estimates. The right orders are needed and visit types need to be accurate. Estimates will show the patient's liability. Patients will have the right to file a formal dispute. Ms. Ginnetti discuss processes that have been developed, time frames and emphasized the need for accuracy. Epic includes two options for creating estimates – one is through linked orders and the other is a template. She reviewed examples of estimates as well as one where the process misaligns. UConn Health must be compliant and patients need to understand in advance. Currently, a small group is receiving estimates: approximately 57% of uninsured have been completed and 1.8% of all scheduled visits with an overall accuracy of 34%. Placing orders to the fullest extent is most helpful as is redefining visits. Non-compliance has a financial impact as the fines are substantial, however, this is important to patients and should help to improve patient satisfaction.

- Intranet/New Public Facing Website Project

Ms. Sharma and Ms. Wallace presented a PowerPoint about the Consumer Website and Internet. Merge is the vendor and this large investment was approved by the Board. This will be cloud-based and very secure. A Hub is being created for on-campus employees with a launch date of October 12, 2023. A Consumer Website which will give patients ease of access has a launch date of February 24, 2024. The domain structure was compared to what exists now. Much research was done with other institutions, both academic and non-academic. There will be a move to www.uconnhealth.org with no change in email addresses. The marketing team is reviewing over 280 web pages and will be in contact about what services are missing. Meetings, which will be recorded for future reference, will be scheduled in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie W. Wall, Executive Assistant