

NEWS RELEASE

Wellness Program Helps Riverview Health & Rehabilitation Center Reduce Workers' Compensation Claims

Savannah, GA (July 7, 2017) – Rapidly rising workers' compensation claims is a major concern for most businesses but especially for round-the-clock health care service providers. Riverview Health & Rehabilitation Center was recently recognized by TIS Insurance Services, Inc. and Amerisure Insurance for its continuous improvement in reducing its workers' compensation claims. The award stated: "Awarded to Riverview Health & Rehabilitation Center, Inc. in recognition of 75 percent injury severity reduction over three years." This was the first time that Riverview had received such an award.

Riverview Health & Rehabilitation Center has 160 residents served by 210 employees. The most common types of workers' compensation injuries at this facility have been due to falls and injuries to the back, typically occurring when lifting residents. "We are constantly educating and training our employees about risks for work-related injuries. Our safety committee meets monthly to review incidents and analyze trends. We try to proactively intervene with solutions to prevent injuries before they happen," said Wanda Meier, MBA, PHR, SHRM-CP, director of human resources.

Meier also credits the Riverview "Champions for Health" wellness program with helping to reduce workers' compensation claims. The comprehensive wellness program was first implemented about three years ago. INTERVENT International, a global health management company based in Savannah, was selected as the primary vendor for the wellness program.

INTERVENT provides a variety of evidence-based services to Riverview, all of which are available free to employees. Wellness services provided by INTERVENT include the following:

- An annual online health risk assessment (HRA) and comprehensive personal wellness report including risk factor goals and an action plan for health improvement
- Online topical self-help programs and comprehensive telephonic and on-site lifestyle health coaching individualized for employees' risk levels (up to 12 sessions over one year)
- On-site services of health professionals for "lunch and learn" presentations on topics identified as priority needs for the workforce
- Challenges, contests and health fairs to engage and motivate employees to make and sustain lifestyle changes

- Group evaluation reports including ROI analyses that are useful for decision making purposes
- Ongoing training, consultation and implementation support to the Riverview management staff

“We believe that healthier employees are more alert and attuned to potential risk of injuries in our environment,” said Meier. “Having INTERVENT as our wellness partner has not only helped reduce our workers’ compensation claims, it has also helped reduce our health care claims. Morale among our workforce is very good. Employees enjoy getting together for the monthly wellness activities. Jamie Smith, an INTERVENT health coach, gave a presentation for National Safety Month in June. We’re planning to launch another weight loss challenge in August. We use financial incentives to encourage healthy behaviors. For example, employees who do not use any form of tobacco avoid a tobacco surcharge.”

Richard Salmon, INTERVENT chief operations officer, says: “Working with Nancy Pearson, Wanda Meier and the entire team at Riverview is very exciting. The team is extremely focused on their mission and vision. They are not only committed to improving the health and well-being of the associates at Riverview, but their passion for their residents is also very evident. We work very closely with David Rubnitz and his team at Eben Concepts to develop and implement strategies to improve associate health and well-being. At the conclusion of each program year, we assess the impact of our programs on health outcomes and health care costs. This type of partnership between the employer, its employer benefits provider and our lifestyle management services is a very good example for how health care costs can be effectively managed.”

For more information:

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