Clinical Colleagues Implements Unique “Quality Improvement Program” to Help Anesthesia Departments Meet Compliance Standards

(Spring House, PA) – Clinical Colleagues, Inc., a national provider of anesthesia practice management services, has developed a comprehensive program to help client hospitals optimize procedures and protocols related to regulatory and compliance standards. Through participating in this “Quality Improvement Program,” hospitals that partner with Clinical Colleagues can take the right steps to prepare for surveys conducted by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (TJC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), while assuring a safe and quality-focused environment of care for patients.

The program’s “58-Point Quality Monitoring Audit” includes a comprehensive checklist for anesthesia departments, using standards and indicators from both TJC and CMS. By participating in this internal audit process, leaders of hospital anesthesia departments can confirm areas that are optimizing regulatory operations and procedures, as well as those that are in need of improvement. This monthly process is conducted by the Chief of Anesthesia in collaboration with Regional Medical Officers from Clinical Colleagues, who review data and address what processes must be changed or implemented, to assure a compliant environment for patient care.

“We realize that hospitals struggle with this, simply because they often have limited resources which makes it difficult to monitor and implement regulatory changes,” said Virginia Reigle, Director of Provider Services and Regulatory Compliance for Clinical Colleagues. “While our Quality Improvement Program is designed to engage members of a hospital’s medical staff, and ensure they understand the requirements, the key is that Clinical Colleagues can help monitor what is happening, identify opportunities for improvement and help client hospitals implement meaningful and sustainable change.”

Hospitals participating in Clinical Colleagues’ Quality Improvement Program are also issued Provider Survey Readiness Handbooks for each anesthesia provider. The handbook outlines protocols for proper documentation guidelines, emergency code instructions and national patient safety goals, as well as a listing of questions to expect from TJC and CMS surveyors. Additionally, providers receive pocket-sized documentation cards as part of the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP), giving anesthesia providers a quick reference guide to help reduce the risk of surgical complications.

“It is important to remember that standards for compliance are established for a reason – it all boils down to delivering patient care in an environment that is safe,” said Reigle. “By making this a priority, hospitals are doing a good thing for their patients and also assuring they remain TJC and CMS compliant.”

For further information about Clinical Colleagues’ Quality Improvement Program, call 850-497-6702 or visit clinicalcolleagues.com.

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