Evaluating and Implementing New Service in an ASC

Dr. Ken Austin, Ramapo Valley Surgical Center, NJ
Mr. Robert J. Zasa, FACHE, ASD Management
Orthopedic Spine & Pain Management Driven ASC Conf.
Chicago, Illinois October, 2011

Identify high profit/high growth specialties

- Which specialties fit best with the ASC in its market
- Which specialties are not prevalent or have commanding presence in outpatient surgery in the market area
- Are there a selective group of doctors that can provide consistent & quality services
Identify “holes” in the market

- Can the ASC be #1 or #2 in the market if the service selected is implemented
- Can market sustain this service
- What type of financial structure & management arrangements are needed to support this specialty
- What % ownership do the new doctors need in the ASC to change alliance to your ASC

Identify key doctors on which to build program

- How many doctors in this specialty in the area
- Can you find doctors that can offer great outpatient services in this specialty
- Have leader doctor(s) at the center now reach out as physician leaders to those doctors to speak about the concept and initial evaluation of interest.
- Once identified have manager begin formal internal review

Direct Involvement
By Physicians and Management
Build Pro Formas for the new service

- Which CPT codes will doctors use
- What is the estimated number of cases per CPT the doctors will do
- What is the disposable, drug, staff costs per case
- What new equipment and instruments are needed to provide the new service
- What is the cost of that equipment and those instruments
- Physical facility issues—O.R. space needed, Pre and post-op spaces needed, block time available at which hours to accommodate the new service
- Are second shifts or Saturday morning needed to provide the service
- Is 24 hour space needed with renovations to provide the new service

Reimbursement & Profitability Issues

- What is the reimbursement from each contract for each CPT code to be used
- What is the total cost per case including labor for each CPT code by new doctors to assure service can be provided by each new doctor profitably
- What is the pricing strategy for each CPT code. Can you get EOBs from local hospital related to the reimbursement at the hospital from the doctors doing those cases from their patients to validate the fees to be charged and make sure the reimbursement is at the community area level

Identify and Develop Referral Sources

- The existing referral physician referral sources of the new doctors
- Workers comp payers
- Workers comp RNs/case RNs
- Attorneys—P.I, Lien
- Vendors who have to gain from ASC buying their equipment, implants and supplies
- Direct contracts with industries