



Hospital unveils evaluation

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DANVILLE - Portions of Danville Regional Medical Center's Joint Commission evaluation were unveiled to area business leaders Wednesday, but the complete results have not been made public.

The hospital received a "preliminary denial of accreditation" from the national health care accreditation organization in March.

Art Doloresco, CEO of Danville Regional Medical Center, presented the results of the survey Wednesday morning at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

Doloresco, however, would not allow members of the media to have a copy of the presentation and did not want it to be recorded by radio station WBTM.

"This is only the second time in the United States that a hospital has revealed a Joint Commission decision," he said. "This is a unique opportunity for businesses to take a look."

He explained that the Joint Commission's scoring was based on the number of standards with which hospitals are not in compliance.

"There are more than 500 standards and we have 21 of those not in compliance," he said.

There were 22 RFIs, "Required for Improvements," but the hospital successfully appealed one.

The areas the commission cited as needing improvement include home health, medical staff, nursing, data tracking, pharmacy and leadership.

Doloresco said the hospital is not only scored on compliance but on how long it has been compliant.

"You could be doing the right thing, but not doing it long enough," he said. "For example,

last August there were 180 patient restraint situations a month. Now we are having less than 30 patient restraint encounters a month, but when the Joint Commission was here, it was one of the 21 RFIs because (the decrease) had been less than six months.”

The survey uses a method known as “tracer methodology” that gives the commission a view of a patient’s stay in the hospital from the minute the patient enters to when he leaves and scores how the hospital processes functioned during that stay.

Nurse to patient ratio is not one of the areas scored, Doloresco said.

“We have sent an eight-page letter to the commission with an explanation of mitigating circumstances,” he said.

The commission will meet on June 14 and issue a decision the next day. The hospital could be moved from preliminary to full denial, conditional accreditation or full accreditation, according to Doloresco.

He said the hospital expects it will be conditionally accredited. Even if accreditation is denied, however, there is still an appeals process available.

With conditional accreditation, the commission will return in six months for another full survey.

“The Joint Commission doesn’t exist to put the hospital out of business but to raise the bar,” he said, adding that the commission has “really raised the bar” and the survey isn’t the same as the one the hospital passed before.

Doloresco said the hospital is in the process of recruiting someone whose only job will be to keep the hospital up to date on accreditation requirements.

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