

In Western Pennsylvania, PHS currently provides comprehensive health care to over 10,000 patients in nine (9) facilities, with another facility (SCI-Pine Grove, a 500 bed juvenile facility) to open in the summer of 2000. Our mission is to provide those services as directed by the Department of Corrections in order to maintain our patients at a maximum state of physical and psychological health.

Our scope of services included on-site is as follows:

- Psychiatric services for acute and chronic conditions
- Primary Physician services provided by site Medical Directors, physicians, and physician assistants include sick call and emergency triage, chronic clinics for infectious diseases, asthma and respiratory diseases, cardiac and vascular diseases, seizure disorders, diabetes, and multiple disease clinics.
- Specialty clinics provided on-site include general surgery, orthopedic surgery, oral surgery, physical therapy, optometry and vision care, and podiatry. Other services provided as needed via tele-medicine include infectious disease, dermatology, ophthalmology, and psychiatry.

Ancillary services include:

- Laboratory and phlebotomy services
- Pharmacy services for both prescription and over-the-counter medications, including a 30-60 day supply of medication to inmates who are paroled
- Radiology services, which include x-rays, CT scans, mammography, and ultrasounds
- EKG services with cardiologist over-reads
- Chemotherapy and Infusion Therapy on an as needed basis
- Respiratory and Ventilator services on an as needed basis
- Medical supplies and equipment replacement, repair, and/or maintenance
- Administrative support via Health Service Administrators and clerical staff
- Nursing services at 1) SCI-Pittsburgh Mental Health Unit, 2) SCI-Laurel Highlands Dialysis Unit, and 3) SCI-Pine Grove upon opening

Off-site services include:

- Inpatient hospitalization
- Same Day Surgeries
- Off-site specialty consultants

We have managed care contracts with five (5) tertiary care hospitals and eight (8) primary care facilities. All of our Medical Directors have admitting privileges, thus providing PHS with greater control and appropriate utilization management. The average length of stay has dropped from six (6) days in 1997 to three (3) days in 1999, thus cutting in half the amount of time correctional officers are spending outside the institutions guarding patients.

Major Initiatives include:

- Tele-medicine network established and will be expanding (East meets West)
- Chronic disease classification system – a preventative disease module is in pilot phase
- Symbioses with CPS by elimination of cross vendor barriers

- Cost savings measures would include taking advantage of obvious economics scale opportunities: i.e. overhead costs, purchasing power
- Continue through education to maximize on-site delivery through expansion of tele-medicine and affiliations with universities and community resources
- The Bureau of Health Care Services has been dynamic in terms of support and progressive thinking. We collaborate continuously in areas of quality improvement, inmate education, staff education, and operational entities such as Hepatitis C protocols, tele-medicine, and direct observation therapy. Their efforts make it possible for us to keep health care costs under control.