

Novel Model of Care for the Person with Multiple Sclerosis: Physical Therapist in the Neurology Office

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Description:

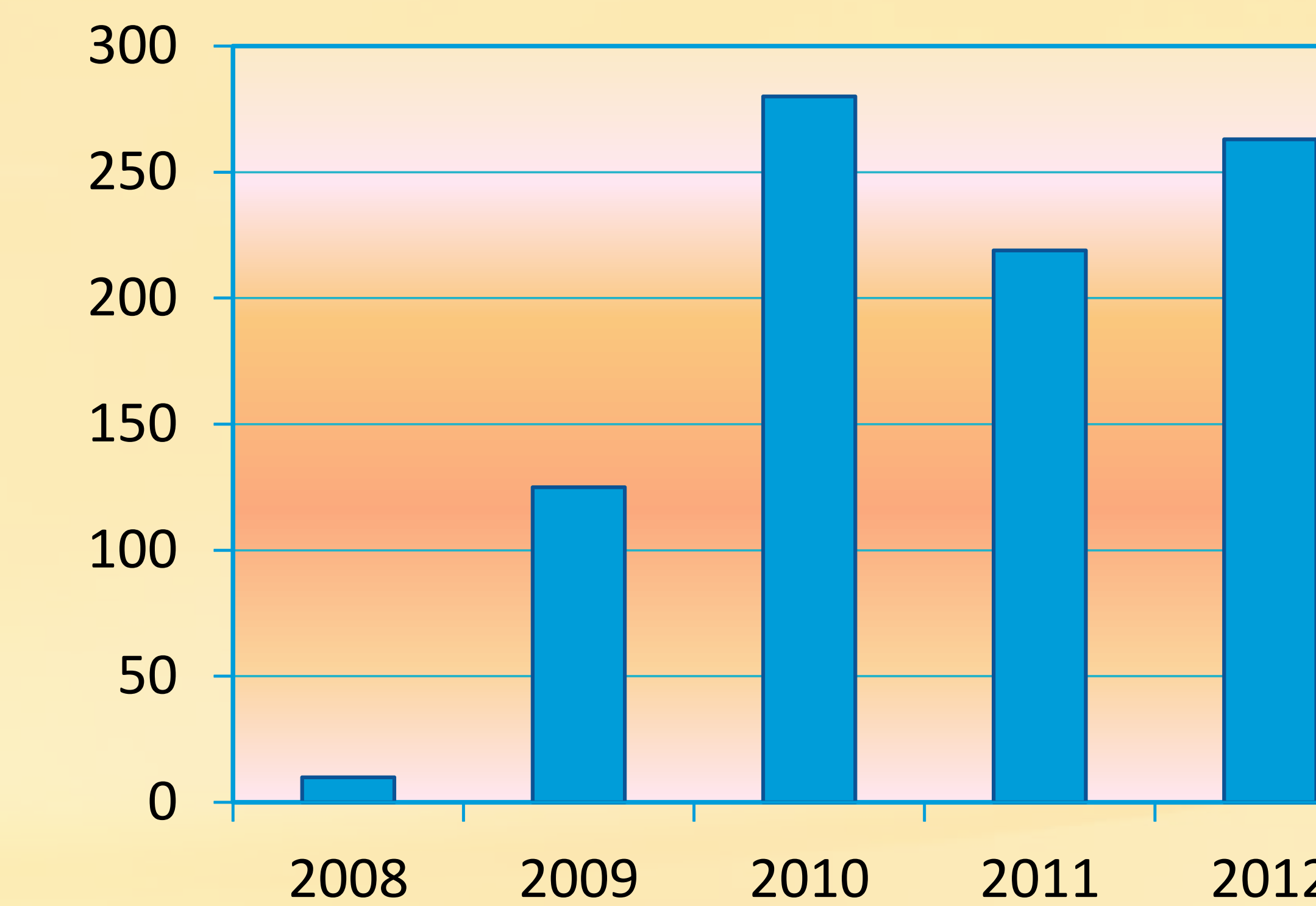
In support of the multidisciplinary care provided in our Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center of Excellence, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) Rehabilitation Services has introduced a Physical Therapist (PT) as a member of the Neurology office team.

The PT partners with the Neurologists and physician extenders to provide direct patient care, consultation, education, and facilitation of referrals to all Rehabilitation Services disciplines and providers.

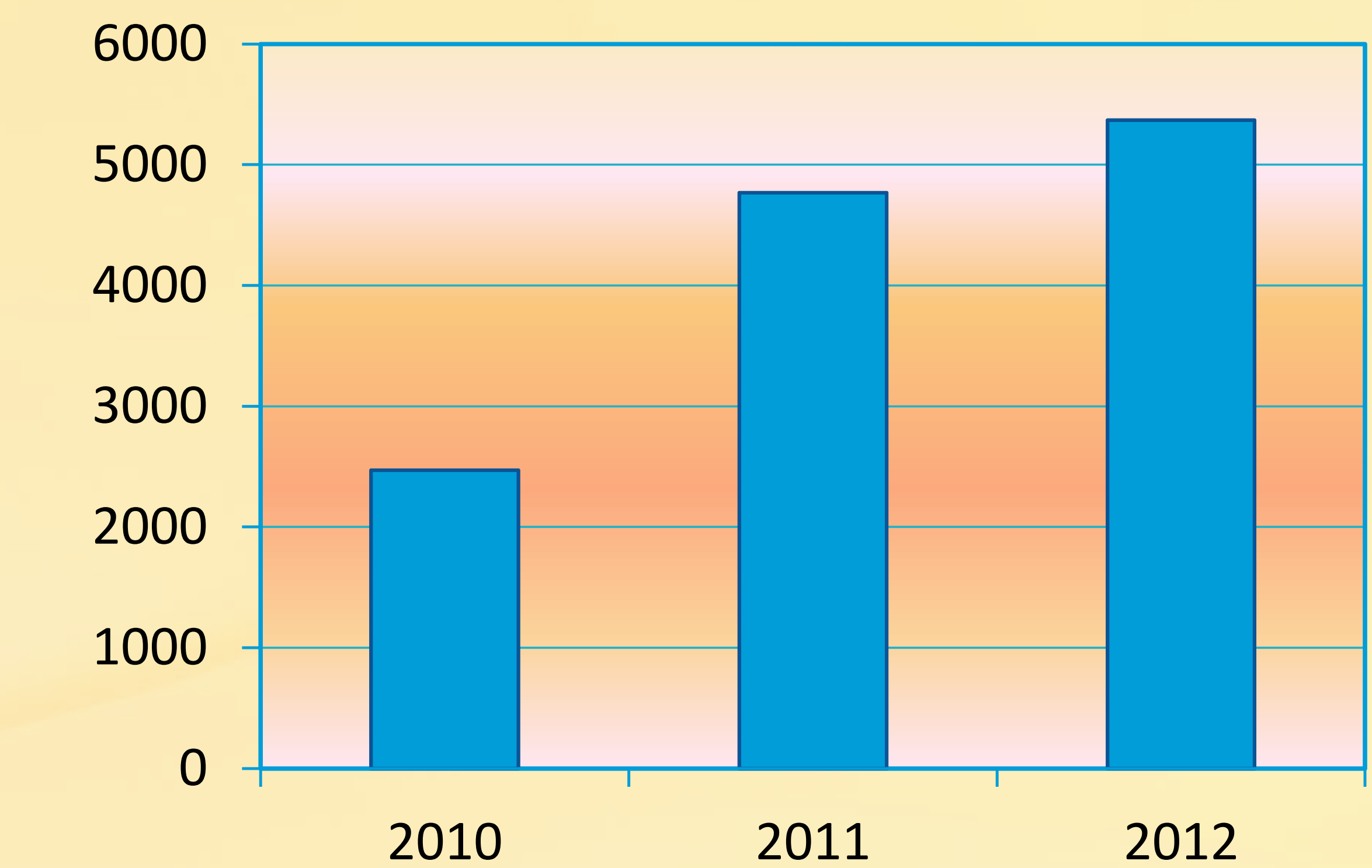
Utilization Chart			
Presenting Problem	Screen	Intervention	Possible Referral
Gait dysfunction	Fall risk assessment, Gait analysis	Gait training, Assistive device trial, Safety education	PT Fitness
Functional mobility deficits/eating issues	Wheeled mobility screen	Education, Communication with DME supplier	Wheelchair clinic
Swallowing/speech dysfunction	Interview patient/family	Education	ST
ADL dysfunction	Dressing, Grooming, Bathing, Household tasks	Education, Adaptive equipment trials, Home safety evaluation	OT
Pain	Orthopedic evaluation	Education, HEP	PT OT Fitness
Newly diagnosed	Lifestyle, Fitness presenting deficits	Education, HEP	PT OT Fitness

Referral Patterns to LVHN Rehab Services

MS Center Referrals



Total Neurological Visits



Model:

The PT interacts with the Neurology Team and patients in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the provider, patient and family:

- At the office visit, either before, during or after the provider interaction
- Resource for patient phone inquiries or follow-up
- Communication liaison between the Neurology office team and Rehab Services providers
- Integral part of multidisciplinary events and meetings

PROVIDER:

- Can focus on medical management
- Has resource for all rehab questions
- Has improved communication with rehab providers

PATIENT:

- One office visit can address both medical and functional issues/changes
- Encourages establishment of therapeutic partnership

Benefits of Novel Model Of Care

REHAB SERVICES:

- Improved utilization of rehab services
- Improved provider/rehab communication
- Ability to chronicle disease progression and provide early intervention

Conclusion:

The multidisciplinary team caring for the MS patient population functions most effectively in an integrated model of care. The physical therapist has proven to be a valuable part of the medical office team.

Per qualitative feedback, use of the Novel Model of Care has resulted in:

- Improved physician satisfaction
- Improved patient satisfaction
- Improved, more appropriate utilization of Rehabilitation Services with partner facilities.

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