

SUBJECT: DISCHARGE PLANNING - REHABILITATION SERVICES	REFERENCE #8402
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APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

POLICY:

- As the primary goal of Rehabilitation Services is to improve the patient’s level of functioning, self-care, independence and quality of life, all efforts are made to assist the patient with meeting these skills and support requirements for living, learning and work activities.
- To facilitate this goal, Rehabilitation Services initiates discharge planning processes for all patients as soon as possible, and periodically updates throughout the course of the patient’s stay.

PROCEDURE:

- Through continuing assessments, functional reassessments and evaluations of patient progress, discharge plans will be formulated with the patient, utilizing the following guidelines:
 - Plans for discharge will be formulated in a collaborative manner with the patient/family.
 - Consideration will be given to age, disability, cognitive status, home environment support and treatment setting factors.
 - Patients at high risk for post-hospital services will be recognized by a screening process.
 - Participation in planning activities will be solicited from all members of the healthcare team.
 - An assessment of the patient’s home and work environment will be made upon initial admission to allow for formulation of early plans for discharge.
 - When necessary the Social Worker/Discharge Planner will be requested to provide a list of outside community resources for patient access in the home environment.

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- A list of facilities participating in post-hospital care accepting Medicare patients, or a list of post-hospital care facilities accepting managed care patients will be presented to the patient, as applicable, depending on his/her insurance.
- Patients and their families will be free to choose among providers of post-hospital care, if further care is deemed necessary during the discharge process.
- Communications will be ongoing with the patient's physician to facilitate the discharge process.
- All necessary durable home medical equipment and/or goods will be arranged for the patient prior to discharge.
- Patient education/teaching related to discharge plans will be instituted as soon as the discharge plans are formulated and throughout the patient's use of rehabilitation services.
- Family members who plan to provide post-hospital services for the patient will be counseled in preparation for discharge.
- The discharge plan will be reassessed and updated as the patient's needs and condition changes.
- The patient/family will be made aware of any revisions in the discharge plans.
- The patient/family will be made aware of a tentative discharge from service date, and informed in a timely fashion of any revisions in the date, according to the patient's progression with the rehabilitative services treatment plan.
- Discharge from Rehabilitation Services will be based on the approved medical staff written criteria. Any exceptions will be at the order of the treating physician.