End of Life – The Complex Discharge Plan

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Disclosures

I have no disclosures to report
Objectives

• Describe the variables which impact discharge planning options for critically ill patients
  • Cultural
  • Socioeconomic
  • Community
• Identify strategies for critical care providers to arrange for optimal levels of care at discharge.
Discharge Planning
Begins at Admission

- Team effort that begins with the identification of potential patient outcomes
- Benefit Coverage
  - Needs to be identified early
- Critical to identify one family point of contact
  - Spokesperson with whom the team will interact
    - Ability of the spokesperson to bring the family together
    - Legal ranking related to the spokesperson
- Critical to identify the team spokesperson
  - Triangulation with the team is a reality
Discharge Planning
Care Alternatives

• Clinical Criteria helps guide decision making about the appropriate level of care to meet the patient’s needs
  • Level of care is determined by medical necessity
  • This must be weighed against benefit coverage
  • If recommended care level is not a covered benefit, what resources do the patient/family have to support transition to the recommended level of care
• Candid discussion about how aggressive the patient/family wish the care team to be in managing continued care
  • What can be expected
  • Describe the care to be rendered in terms the patient/family can understand
Discharge Planning
Levels of Care

• LTACH
  • Clinical Criteria for LTACH
  • New Guidelines for payment
  • Acute Care bank of days
    • Co-pays associated with use of the Acute Care bank of days
• Skilled Nursing
  • Clinical Criteria for SNF
  • Coverage days and co-pays associated with use of SNF
• Palliative Care
  • Clinical Criteria
  • Sources of funding
Discharge Planning
Levels of Care

- Hospice
  - Clinical Criteria
  - Benefits for both patient and family
  - Timing
- Home
  - Care by family
    - Trial of care by family
  - Family expectations
- Nursing Home
  - Benefit Coverage
Discharge Planning
Community Resources

- Religious organizations
- Philanthropic funding
- Foundations
- Community Service Agencies
  - American Cancer Society
  - American Heart Association
  - United Way
- Hospital or Healthcare System resources
In the traditional Medicare patient, the patient has a maximum of 150 days of acute care coverage
• True
• False

Every patient has access to the same levels of care for treatment?
• True
• False