



**Catholic Health
Initiatives**

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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

Learning Assessment Questions

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