Discharge Nurse
Position Description

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

QUALIFICATIONS:

Required: Clinical Nurse, ADN enrolled in BSN program with completion in approximately 3 years (must be enrolled by Fall '06)

Preferred: Clinical Nurse, BSN

50% Clinical, 50% Discharge Nurse
8 or 12 hour Shifts. Continuity of scheduled shifts preferred.
The Discharge Nurse activities must be carried out 7 days a week.
To be shared with one to multiple peers on a given unit.
No clinical assignment when performing this role.

FUNCTION:

To collaborate with the nurse and other team members within the relationship centered model of nursing care to assure effective, timely discharge of patient through the following responsibilities by following the Continuation of Care: Discharge/Transition Home prototype

1. Monitors admissions for anticipated length of stay and discharge date.

2. Ensure plan identifies anticipated needs for teaching, caregiver support, and details regarding discharge prescriptions, and/or transportation on the day of discharge.

3. Liaison for faculty and staff regarding discharge.

4. Ensure all discharge related paperwork has been initiated.

5. Participates daily with Interdisciplinary Team Rounds and facilitates discussion of patient/family needs and anticipated discharge date. Discussion of discharge needs and anticipated discharge date will occur with patient and team during rounds. Utilizes the Discharge Preparation Checklist.

6. Attend Interdisciplinary Continuity of Care Rounds weekly and/or daily. Assures team members participate in round to thoroughly discuss patient needs with appropriate documentation recorded.

7. Ensures that there has been contact with the case manager, social worker or other discipline with identified needs requiring intervention. For example, transportation and housing needs referred to Social Work, post acute care needs including home health or transfer to another facility referred to Case Management, home nutrition needs referred to Clinical Nutrition and need for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. referred to Rehabilitation Services.

Original 12/7/2005
13. Monitors 23 hour Observation Patients per established policy.

14. Monitors unit discharge variance logs and assists with reporting of outcomes to quarterly goals and establishing new goals with Associate Director or desigee.

15. Addresses trends identified variances and trends, identified from Internal Survey and High Risk Phone Survey by developing Quality Improvement projects as appropriate to improve discharge process for the unit (in collaboration with the Associate Director).

16. Monitors discharge process statistics and metrics on a monthly basis with Associate Director of inpatient unit.

17. Complete High Risk Phone Follow-Up Survey on the identified hi-risk patients on your unit (per specific unit criteria).

SUPERVISION:
Received: Directly by Associate Director or designee.

EDUCATION:
Required: Clinical Nurse, ADN enrolled in BSN program with completion in approximately 3 years (must be enrolled by Fall '06)

Preferred: Master of Science in Nursing.

EXPERIENCE:
Required: 1-2 years relevant clinical nursing experience, maturation PDM or projected date of completion.