



## PREPARING FOR DISCHARGE

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- DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS:** Does the patient have a clear, readable copy of the discharge instructions and the discharge medications?
- NEW MEDICATIONS:** If new medications have been added to the treatment plan, have they been checked for drug interactions? Do you understand all instructions and especially the dosing schedule?
- “RESCUE ME” NUMBER:** Do the discharge documents contain a phone number to call if there are questions or concerns?
- FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENT:** Has a follow-up appointment been scheduled with the patient’s physician?
- HELP AT HOME:** If the patient will need help at home, are family or friends available to help and have they been contacted?
- VISITING NURSE:** Will a visiting nurse be needed and has the doctor signed the order?
- SKILLED NURSING FACILITY:** If the patient is being discharged to a skilled nursing facility, do you know how long she is authorized to stay? Is there a plan for her subsequent care?
- WOUND CARE:** Does the patient or advocate have clear instructions for caring for any wound or surgical site? (This should include how to change bandages or dressings, when bandages should be removed, and when the patient can shower or bathe.)
- PHYSICAL THERAPY:** If the patient needs physical or occupational therapy, when should therapy start and who will schedule it?
- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:** If the patient needs new medical equipment (e.g., oxygen, wheelchair, hospital bed, commode, walker) has the order been placed, and filed with insurance if covered? When will the medical equipment arrive?
- DISABILITY/ WORKER’S COMPENSATION:** If the patient is applying for disability benefits or worker’s compensation coverage, does the hospital or doctor need to submit documentation? Who can the patient contact if more information is requested?