

DRUG RECONCILIATION AT TIME OF HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

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PRIMARY GOALS

The primary goals of the Drug Reconciliation practice enhancement are:

1. To improve the management of medications for patients discharged from hospital.
2. To have up-to-date patient medical records in the EMR following hospital discharge.

DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENT

The Drug Reconciliation at time of hospital discharge enhancement requires the involvement of the practice site pharmacist. Hospital discharge sheets provided to the clinic are reviewed by the pharmacist and reconciled with the information contained within the patient medical record in the EMR. The pharmacist reviews the hospital discharge sheets weekly, and if time permits, daily. If required, the pharmacist will follow-up with the patient and community pharmacist as needed to ensure the correct information is documented. During the reconciliation process, any drug-related problems (DRPs) that are identified by the practice pharmacist are documented and provided to the practice site physicians, along with recommendations for their resolution. The DRPs and recommendations are documented in the EMR as a progress note. There is no documentation process that is specific to the Drug Reconciliation process as they are documented in the same manner as are all changes: as a note in the EMR.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

1. This enhancement could be difficult to implement in a large city where there are a number of different hospitals and pharmacies. The process of gathering the information from the various hospitals and accessing the EMRs for a number of practices could be time-consuming and arduous.

POTENTIAL FACILITATORS

1. A practice site located in a small town in which the clinic physicians also work at the local hospital.
2. Coordination of hospital discharge with the practice pharmacist to facilitate the timely transfer of information between sites.
3. Participation of community pharmacists through faxing updates of the patient medication files (ie, MedsCheck) to the practice pharmacist when the patient presents to the pharmacy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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