

Comparison of Discharge Care Coordination Process at TMDU and MGH

TMDU

General Structure & Function

- Centralized case mgmt: MSW and nurses clustered at TMDU CMWS
- CMWS staff attend pt rounds for select specialties (i.e. neurosurgery, endocrinology, geriatrics, pulmonology)
- No formal care coordination oversight for non-referred pts

High-Risk Screen

- High-risk screen mainly implemented for select specialties (as above)
- No formal case mgmt monitoring for pts deemed not high-risk upon admission

Reimbursement

- Requires hardcopy of discharge screen and discharge plan <7d of admission
- Provider meetings for home discharge pts are also eligible

- Similar roles and responsibilities of care coordinators, clinical team, other staff
- Case mgmt attends physician-led rounds
- Physician determines date of discharge

- Pts undergo high-risk screen on admission by case mgmt and/or clinical nurses
- High-risk defined by age as well as social support, Δ functional/cognitive status, insurance, terminal illness, homelessness
- Care coordination reimbursement available

- Decentralized case mgmt: case mgmt assigned to hospital floors
- Multidisciplinary case mgmt rounds for all applicable specialties
- Attending nurse oversees care coordination for all assigned floor pts
- All adult inpts screened by case mgmt.
- All adult inpts monitored by attending nurse and discussed during multidisciplinary rounds
- Attending nurse calls home discharge pts <2 days for TCM reimbursement

MGH

Discharge Care Coordination at TMDU and MGH: Comparison of Strengths and Weaknesses

TMDU

MGH

Key Strengths

- Detail-oriented consideration of patient preferences with **high overall patient satisfaction**
- **Successful integration of CMWS discharge coordination services on select specialty floors** with established relationships (i.e. neurosurgery, endocrinology, geriatrics, pulmonology)
- CMWS staff **fill patient-perceived communication gaps** with physicians/clinical team
- **Rigorous data collection and analysis** of CMWS referral volume and pt demographics

- **Strong culture of inter-provider collaboration** in discharge coordination with formalized multidisciplinary rounds
- **Attending nurse role** allows for broad oversight of care coordination and serves as patient-provider liaison with continuity during hospitalization
- **Innovative initiatives in high-risk patient care coordination** and population mgmt (i.e. **iCMP**)
- **Established modes of communication between inpatient and outpatient providers** within Partners system

Key Weaknesses

- Need for **greater institutional awareness of care coordination services** offered by CMWS, particularly for high-risk geriatric pts
- **Additional staffing resources needed** for any anticipated increases in patient referral volume
- Difficult to streamline dynamic completion, storage, and submission of **hardcopy discharge screening and planning documents** required for reimbursement
- **No primary care infrastructure** for post-discharge mgmt of high-risk pts

- Decentralized case mgmt model with many providers – **challenge to establish leadership role**
- **Need for greater institutional awareness of care coordination process** and roles/responsibilities – no formal educational curriculum exists
- **Challenges of over documentation in EMR** and ensuring efficient, accurate communication of discharge summaries to relevant providers
- **No centralized data/difficult to access data** related to case management activities, pt demographics