Discontinuation, Reinstatement and Discharge from Services

Purpose

This document outlines the process of discontinuation and reinstatement of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy.

Audience

The information in this document is intended for all members of the Department of Rehabilitation Services staff.

Policy

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy services may be discontinued upon the recommendation of the therapist. Reinstatement of therapy services may occur upon recommendation of the therapist and approval of physician.

Temporary Discontinuation

Therapy services may be discontinued temporarily (placed "on hold") in the event of surgery or other change in status for a period of 24 - 48 hours without necessitating a new order to resume treatment.

- The therapist will resume contact with the patient 24 - 48 hours following the change in status with physician's approval.
- Rehabilitation services may be re-instated without a new physicians order. The therapist will re-evaluate patient status and resume treatment at the appropriate level upon agreement with the physician.

Discontinuation / Discharge (Inpatient)

Therapy services are discontinued upon documented physician's request at any time during the patient's hospitalization. He/she will be reinstated upon a new order from a physician.

Therapy services are discontinued if a patient has refused treatment three consecutive times. Therapy will be reinstated upon a new order from a physician if patient compliance has improved.

Therapy services are discontinued with the physician's approval if, through evaluation procedures, it is determined that:

- The treatment services requested are not needed by the patient.

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- The treatment services are not available.
- The treatment services are not appropriate to occupational or physical therapy.
- Referral to another agency or department may better meet the patient's needs.

Therapy services are discontinued and the physician is notified when re-evaluation procedures indicate that the patient has achieved maximum benefit from the treatment services, or the patient's condition has deteriorated to the point where he is unable to benefit from the service.

Therapy services are discontinued when a patient is discharged from the hospital. The physician may request continuation of services on an outpatient basis by written request.

Discharge (Outpatient)

Patients will be discharged from therapy services when:

- The patient achieves functional treatment goals or has achieved maximum benefit from therapy.
- The patient has refused treatment three consecutive times.
- The patient has been "on hold" for more than two weeks.
- Treatment services are no longer needed.
- Treatment services are not available.
- Treatment services not appropriate.
- At any time upon physician's request.

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Communi-cation

Therapists discontinuing or discharging patients from therapy services will notify the physician and complete the necessary documentation.

- The rationale for temporary discontinuation will be documented in EPIC.
- The rationale for discharge from therapy services will be documented in EPIC.