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Discharge/Transfer Criteria for the Blocker Burn Unit (BBU)

Audience

This document is intended for all healthcare providers caring for patients with burns.

Policy

Discharge planning shall be initiated upon admission to the Blocker Burn Unit (BBU).

Discharge planning is provided to patients with an interdisciplinary team including the patient, the patient's family/caretaker and licensed medical providers and staff involved in the patients care, treatment and services.

During the patient's hospital course, the Burn Team shall be briefed on patient/family disposition options, insurance limitations etc so discharge plans can be formulated and updated regularly.

Patients shall be discharged/transferred from the BBU unit only with the approval of the BBU attending physician.

Transfer to another service shall only occur when the patient's primary acute concern is no longer burn care and wound management.

Burn team shall continue to follow all patients transferred off the BBU as needed and for post discharge care.

If the patient is to be discharged from a unit other than BBU, the BBU nurse shall be responsible for discharge teaching, in conjunction with other members of the BBU Team.

Prior to discharge/transfer, the Burn Team physician shall communicate the completed discharge plan through the discharge/transfer orders.

To qualify for discharge home from the BBU a patient must meet the following criteria:

Discharge Guidelines

1. Be able to safely care for themselves at home or have a responsible adult available to accompany the patient home and assure a safe transition
2. Be oriented or have a family/caretaker who can provide 24/7 care including administration of medications, dressing changes etc
3. Be able to ambulate independently or be mobilized with assistive devices (i.e. wheelchair, crutch, cane etc).
4. Able to maintain vital signs within acceptable ranges from baseline considering the patients age, gender and medical diagnosis.

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5. Be able to manage dressing changes or have a family/caretaker who can safely perform the procedure as often as needed.
6. Be able to maintain body weight through oral or enteral nutrition.

Note: Exceptions to the above criteria may be approved at the discretion of the BBU Medical Director

Any patient that does not meet the criterial listed for discharge to home should be considered for discharge to an extended care facility, such as a Skilled Nursing Facility, Long Term Care Facility etc.

Qualifications for discharge to an extended care facility will depend on the admission criteria for those facilities.

Discharge/ Procedure

Responsibility	Action
Attending Physician	Approves discharge/transfer in collaboration with the Medical Director.
BBU Nurse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides the burn patient and/or responsible family member the following education, in both written and verbal format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Medication prescribed for discharge. •The personalized exercise program prescribed by the occupational therapist and physical therapist. •The personalized brace and splint care program •The personalized activities of daily living program. 2. Provides psychosocial support to the patient/family and refers to the appropriate discipline. 3. Provides the burn patient and/or responsible family member the following education as needed, in both written and verbal format including successful demonstration of the skill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific wound care and infection control practices. <p>If the patient is still colonized with a resistant organism, teaching will include any special treatment or precautions necessary.</p>

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Discharge Procedure, continued

Responsibility	Action
BBU Nurse, continued	1. Assembles supplies necessary for wound care. 2. Ensures appropriate home health services are in place or stub room visits are scheduled for dressing changes prior to discharge. 3. Ensures documentation on the UTMB discharge form includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time and date of discharge. • Clinic appointment date and time. • Any instructions and supplies given to the patient and who gave the instructions. 4. Ensures relevant departments are informed of final discharge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Management • Respiratory Therapy • Occupational and Physical Therapy • Dietary 5. Ensures unused medication and supplies not in the patient's room are returned for credit.
Rehab. Services	6. Establishes a program and education plan for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise strategies. • Brace and splint care. • Activities of daily living. 7. Assists and directs families how to appropriate supplies and equipment needed upon discharge.
Care Manager	8. Initiates referrals to appropriate visiting or public health nurses in a home care program. 9. Assists and directs families how to obtain needed supplies and equipment in the community. 10. Provides psychosocial support to the patient/family and refers to the appropriate discipline/agencies.
Health Unit Coordinator	11. Disassembles patient chart and sends to Health Information Management. 12. Communicates with PSS and/or schedules discharge follow-up clinic appointment.

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Transfer of Service Guidelines

To qualify for transfer to a medical surgical unit from the BBU a patient must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Burn care is no longer the primary reason for hospitalization.
2. Burn patient no longer requires specialized burn dressing changes and baths.

Transfer of Service Procedure

Responsibility	Action
BBU Nurse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notifies the receiving patient care area of the transfer and gives a progress report to the receiving registered nurse. The report should include diagnosis, condition, special treatment(s), and equipment requirements. 2. Provides the burn patient and/or responsible family member an explanation about the reason for transfer to another unit. 3. Ensures relevant departments are informed of transfer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Management • Respiratory Therapy • Occupational and Physical Therapy • Dietary 4. Writes a nursing transfer progress note and reviews all care plans. 5. Ensures that the receiving unit is notified immediately prior to the physical transfer. 6. Ensures safe transfer of the patient and updates receiving registered nurse of any changes in the patient's condition and/or orders since the initial report. 7. Ensures all available patient records accompany the patient at the time of transfer. 8. Ensures that all patient supplies are sent with patient.

References

1. Herndon, D. (2018). *Total burn care, 5th edition*. Elsevier.
2. Wiegand, D. (2017). *AACN procedure manual for high acuity, progressive and critical care, 7th edition*. Elsevier.

