The Fast Track Patient Discharge Process

A fast track patient is a patient who has a rapidly deteriorating condition, which may be entering a terminal phase.

1. Start discussions with family about what they will provide - remember 24 hours a day
2. A completed fast track document needs to be emailed or faxed to the continuing care single point of access team. Email: gemccsu.continuingcare@nhs.net Fax No: 01246 514159. Also include a nursing assessment outlining all care requirements, disease progression, required medication and / or anticipatory medication details, including all relevant contact details for each patient and referring clinician.
3. Refer to OT for assessment and advice (state it is a fast track patient)
4. Refer to pharmacy and explain urgency of situation
5. Contact team leader in ambulance department to highlight pending situation and book ambulance - Give DNACPR order to crew
6. Referral to District Nurse - confirm that they will liaise with GP
7. Refer to HPCT if not already involved if there are specialist palliative care needs.
8. The ward team can refer directly to the community Palliative care nurses if required.
9. Contact Tissue Viability if high grade pressure mattress is essential
10. Order syringe drivers if needed
11. Complete HOOF form if oxygen required - indicate it is for palliative use.
12. Complete Risk Assessment form if bed required

Equipment Company Information
Medequip—Mon-Fri after 2pm, write ‘Call out’ on form, equipment . May not arrive until 9pm.
Be aware all callouts incur an additional cost
Liaise with your OT if the patient is being discharged to outside the Derby/Derbyshire localities as provision of equipment may vary.

Equipment Company Information

Nursing Staff

Doctors
1. Senior Doctor to document in medical notes that patient has a rapidly deteriorating condition, which may be entering a terminal phase.
2. Write up TTO’s and prescribe future anticipatory drugs that the patient may need.
3. Ensure DNACPR Paperwork is complete for ambulance crew and document that the patient is fit to travel
4. Ensure GP documentation is up to date.
5. Telephone GP to inform them of the impending discharge.

Form Information

Contact Information
HPCT - 83074 (Weekends - #6180)
Community Palliative Care Nurse - 07799 337710
Provide a 7 day service
Transport Office - Ext 83471

Discharge to patient’s home
Discharge to nursing home

For a safe efficient discharge the following steps need to be taken

1. Assess patient about equipment and care needs
   - Explain care needs to family
   - Discuss with patient if appropriate
2. Order equipment - work alongside ward staff to minimise duplication
3. Discuss access to property
   - Ambulance crew will not hoist
   - Will not stretcher upstairs
4. Provide training for family in the use of manual handling equipment if necessary
5. Provide information to the family or carers about support in the community, e.g. Crossroads
6. Refer to community OT services if required

Occupational Therapist

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