LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

CONTINUUM OF CARE

Purpose:

To assure the patient’s needs are met with the appropriate level and type of medical, health, or social services.

Policy:

1. Goals and objectives include, but are not limited to the following:
   - Ensure continuity of care
   - Reduce the rate of re-admissions
   - Ensure appropriate utilization of hospital resources
   - Avoid inappropriate levels of care
   - Reduce hospital length of stay

2. The leadership of LSUHSC plans and provides the necessary resources for the care of patients entering into the system. The development of patient programs and strategic planning is an ongoing process driven by community and regional needs and available resources. Access to the facility, admission, and patient transfer are defined by hospital policy.

3. Patient entry into the system begins with the assessment of the patient by both physician and nursing personnel. Based on this assessment, a patient plan of care is developed. The Medical plan of care includes the decision regarding the dispensation of the patient, which may include one or a combination of the following:
   a. admission to an inpatient unit
   b. treatment and discharge with follow-up care scheduled in an appropriate outpatient clinic(s)
   c. consultation to a medical service
   d. referral to another agency to provide services
   e. consultation to hospital based service, i.e., Rehabilitation, Social Services/Case Management
   f. treatment and discharge with no further action needed

4. If LSUHSC has the necessary resources available and is deemed the appropriate setting for meeting the needs of the patient, services are provided. Patients requiring care not available through LSUHSC are appropriately transferred by the medical staff in collaboration with the Case Management department.
5. Prior to discharge the patients' nurse, Case Manager and physician collaborate to ensure an appropriate plan is developed and implemented to provide for continuity of the patient's care.

6. To facilitate the continuum of care the following policies and procedures have been developed and implemented:

A. LSUHSC Policy

- Transfer of Patients 2.9
- Access to Care 2.11
- Patient Assessment 5.9
- Admission 5.10
- Patient Recall 5.11
- Medical Record Content 6.5
- Specialty Clinics 5.8
- Utilization Review 2.5

B. Nursing Policy and Procedure

- Case Management/Coordinated Care D45
- Discharge Planning (Nurses' Role) D47
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) E21
- Patient History/Assessment/and Discharge A20
- Transfer Summary - Inpatient T40
- Memorandum of Transfer

C. Department specific policies and procedures as appropriate in meeting patient care needs.

Administrator

11/19/03

Date

Approved by Clinical Board: 9/19/00, 11/18/03
Written: 10/94
Reviewed: 11/03
Revised: 1/95, 4/98, 7/00, 11/03