RAISING THE BAR ON NURSING FIM® SCORE DOCUMENTATION FOR EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES

Lucia M. Benjamin RN, BSN, MSHSA

INTRODUCTION

- A nursing assessment is the primary stage of the nursing process, and it is vital to the care of patients. This nursing skill is essential to the success of caring for rehabilitation patients with their disabilities and/or chronic health problems, in addition to the acknowledgement of each patient's progression of their rehabilitation goals.

- The Functional Independent Measurement (FIM®) scale has emerged as the standard for rehabilitation assessments and the maintaining a standardization of equity and consistency throughout the national rehabilitation hospitals.

- Rehabilitation nurses are educated to properly assess each patient, and gives a FIM® score to each functional area, as appropriate for nursing. Properly assessing a FIM® score correctly will capture the best burden of care level to attain a plan of care, which would be more individualized.

- Rehabilitation nurses and all therapists focus on assessing and FIM® scoring on admission and discharge. The difference or change between these two scores will be essential to capture each patient's functional gains (or loss), during rehabilitation.

- There are important steps leading to the success of consistency in assessments and scoring, and most importantly a positive functional outcome for each patient.

FIM® NURSING EDUCATION & PROCESS

- A new hired nursing employee will attend a special general FIM® class conducted by the occupational therapy clinical manager, after attending hospital and nursing orientation classes.

- A nursing supervisor assisting in the education of every nurse, will take the time to conduct a one-to-one session in the functional areas, that are a priority for nursing.

- Nurses score the patients the first three days from admission to obtain the best score for admission.

- Nurses responsible to discharge the patient will be responsible to obtain a functional score at the time of discharge.

Note: The greatest asset West Gables Rehabilitation Hospital (WGRH) has is the tenure of rehabilitation nurses at WGRH. These results of success are attributed to the years of expert skills and experiences of theses nu...

RESULTS: FIM® CHANGE BY YEAR

2011 FIM® change scores were above the 21st percentile

2012 FIM® change scores were above the 68th percentile

2013 FIM® change scores were above the 75th percentile

RESULTS: FIM® SCORES & LENGTH OF STAY

OUTCOMES

- Improved patient functional measure outcomes reflecting the compliance in meeting and/or exceeding the maximum goal for each patient's functional independence.

- Greater collaboration and validation of functional scores between therapy, PPS, and nursing, due to the priority of this process to be successful.

- Decreased length of stay.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalizing a "Graduation Day" process, to take place at least twenty four hours before discharge to further engage and validate the functional achievement of each patient.

- Greater monitoring from nursing supervisors will take place for a more intense validation process for admission and discharge scores.

REFERENCES

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