

Physician Forum

NURSING DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE TO ASSIST REFERRING PHYSICIANS WITH FOLLOW-UP CARE

In response to physician requests, Jewish Hospital will offer Nursing Discharge Instructions (NDI) to our active and referring physicians on MD Valet® to ensure that discharge medications and follow-up care for discharged patients will be available in a timely, consistent manner. This is one of the recent additions to patient clinical information services offered by Jewish Hospital, in which active and referring physicians on MD Valet®, can access and print the information from the home or office via the internet, making this a very accessible program.

Presently, discharge summaries are not required to be dictated unless a patient's stay exceeds 48 hours; with an emphasis on decreased length of stay (LOS), that time may not be reached, making the dictation of a discharge summary optional. In those cases, the referring PCPs and specialists do not receive discharge orders or medications on their patients unless a patient remembers to bring their copy of the NDI to the physician office at the time of the follow-up appointment.

Since 42 percent of Jewish Hospital's inpatients live outside Jefferson County, access to NDI via MD Valet® will ease the transfer of patient information for referring physicians. The patients will also benefit by having their information transferred for them instead of being responsible for the delivery of this crucial information. With

the new system, physicians can access the posted discharge information within three days. Included in the report are the time frames for recommended patient follow-up appointments, allowing the staff to manage scheduling.

Physicians have 30 days to dictate a discharge summary, but in many cases, the patient is scheduled to be at a referring

physicians office within one to two weeks of discharge. This creates a delay in patient care and leaves the referring physician steps behind. With the availability of the NDI, these issues can be avoided for referring doctors who have access to the MD Valet® network.

When discharge summaries are not dictated within a few days of patient discharge, NDI will accelerate the process for getting vital discharge orders to the referring physicians. By using the NDI to schedule appointments, record discharge medications, provide further treatment and facilitate an alternative communication route for physicians, patients and physicians will encounter a better health care experience at Jewish Hospital.

To comply with the National Quality Forum safety practice, "Hospitals should make sure that staff transmit care information—such as order changes or new diagnostic details—quickly and clearly to all of a patient's current health care providers that will need the information in order to care for him or her." Physician access to the MD Valet® network for information will make this possible for most cases.

If you would like more information on how to use this new system or join MD Millennium for NDI access, please contact:

Physician/Hospital Development at 581-0907

or

Jeff Olson, manager, Physician Services at
587-4112 or jeff.olson@jhsmdh.org.

Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's HealthCare
Physician/Hospital Development
250 E. Liberty Street, Suite 201
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 568-6655 www.jhsmdh.org

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