



The Clinical Nurse Specialist Role In Post-Acute Care

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My Story



Working In Post-Acute Care

- Majority of CNSs work in acute care
- Post-Acute Care
- PIPP Program

Resident Centered Medication Safety Project

- PIPP Project Funded by Department of Human Services-MN
- Reducing Adverse Drug Events and Rehospitalizations
- 18 Skilled Nursing Facilities
- 16 Project Managers

Planned Interventions

- Pharmacy admission medication reviews
- Development of an antibiotic stewardship program that reduces unnecessary antibiotics
- Pharmacy high risk discharge reviews
- Pharmacogenetic testing
- Introduction of community paramedic after discharge
- Culture change

Outcome Measures

- 30 day rehospitalizations
- Short stay new antipsychotic use
- Long stay antipsychotic prevalence
- Reduction in pharmacy utilization of psychotropics
- Reduce percentage of unnecessary antibiotics
- Nurse competency testing
- Reduce overall pharmacy costs



What I've Learned So Far

- Cannot control all aspects of a large project
- Need to assure equal participation
- Regroup and revise when interventions are not working
- Remember the deeper purpose
- Need for Post Acute Care CNS

Legislation May Support The Utilization Of The CNS In The Post-Acute Care Setting

- Affordable Care Act of 2010
- Impact Act of 2014
- Value Based Purchasing
 - Facilities stand to lose money for poor outcomes
 - Already occurring at the state level as incentives in MN for LTC

What The CNS Can Offer Post-Acute Care

- Lead an interdisciplinary team using the best evidence to guide change
- Many CNS going through DNP programs are specifically trained in the implementation of process change
- Have advanced training that could be used to provide consultation with difficult residents/patients

What The CNS Can Offer Post-Acute Care (Cont.)

- May be able to use prescribing in a way that assists with transitions in care
- Engage work of prescribers with best practice expectations at facilities
- Develop new quality initiatives using evidence to support implementation

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