Discharge Planning - Evidence Update
September 2011

Welcome to the September bulletin on Discharge Planning being produced by the HEFT Library Services. This bulletin is produced to support VITAL for Nurses core skills programme developed in the Trust. This issue will highlight evidence published in the previous four weeks. Full text articles can be accessed with your HEFT Athens ID.

Admission prevention

**Improving neonatal resource use through early discharge: experience of a tertiary neonatal unit.**
Journal of Neonatal Nursing. June; 17(3) p. 111-5

This article highlights research in Cambridge evaluating the benefits of a dedicated neonatal community team in terms of early discharge and lower readmission rates.

Available in fulltext at Elsevier; Note: You will need to register (free of charge) with Science Direct the first time you use it.

Bed management

Nothing to report.

Capacity planning

Nothing to report.

Discharge coordination

Nothing to report.

Discharge process

**Going home on the right medications: prescription errors and transitions of care.**
JAMA. August; 306(8) p. 878-9

This article highlights how transition of care poses both an opportunity and threat to patient welfare when patients move across sites within the health system.

Available in fulltext at Highwire Press
Improving the Discharge Planning Process: communicating discharge needs as part of daily nursing practice.
Journal of Pediatric Nursing. August; 26(4) p. e26

Pilot project to improve discharge process.
Hospital case management. August ;19(8) p. 124-126
This project highlights the care management department at Saddleback Memorial Hospital in Laguna Hills, CA, piloting a standardized work flow process for discharging patients. Discharge process is tracked on an electronic board thereby eliminating duplications and omissions.

Available in fulltext at ProQuest (Legacy Platform)
Available in fulltext at EBSCO Host

Education and Practice
Nothing to report.

Estimating dates for discharge
Nothing to report.

Multidisciplinary team discharges

Early hospital discharge at 48 H following primary PCI for myocardial infarction is both safe and feasible.
Heart. June; 97(A9)
The authors investigated the feasibility and safety of very early discharge (<48 h) coupled with regular outpatient support for low risk patients following PPCI.
Available in fulltext at Highwire Press

Nurse-led discharge
Nothing to report.

Patient centred discharges

A systematic review of comprehensive geriatric assessment to improve outcomes for frail older people being rapidly discharged.
Age & Ageing. July; 40(4) p. 436-443
This review assessed the role of comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) for frail older people who attend acute hospital settings and who are discharged home within short periods (up to 72 h) and have poor outcomes.
Simple discharges and Complex discharges

Adherence to discharge guidelines for late-preterm newborns.

Pediatrics. July; 128(1) p.62-71

The objective of this study was to evaluate trends in adherence to American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations for early discharge of late-preterm newborns and to test the association between hospital characteristics and early discharge.

Available in fulltext at Highwire Press
Available in fulltext at EBSCO Host EJS

Further Information

Multiple sources – websites, journals and healthcare databases – have been searched for evidence published in the last four weeks are identified and highlighted here. For a detailed list of sources that have been scanned, please contact Preeti.Puligari@heartofengland.nhs.uk or ext 47836 (Good Hope Hospital)

Please login with your Athens ID on www.evidence.nhs.uk ‘before’ clicking on any of the journal full text links in this bulletin for seamless access.

To request articles where there is no full text link, please complete an online article request form available on HEFT Library website www.heftlibrary.nhs.uk under ‘Electronic Forms’ menu. Please note that there is now a charge of £1 for such requests.

For more information on how to register for Athens, access the Athens Registration leaflet via HEFT Library website www.heftlibrary.nhs.uk under the ‘Publications’ menu.