

Development of a Continuity of Care Record: Bridging the Medication Use Gap from Hospital to Home

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Abstract

The U.S. health care system is multifaceted and complex with patients commonly receiving care from several providers in various locations. Despite efforts to emphasize care driven by a primary care provider and a focus on medication safety, little attention has been given to the problems faced by patients and providers as patients transition across settings. It is recognized that problems with medication reconciliation and adverse drug events after discharge from the inpatient setting occur commonly. Community-based pharmacists frequently don't have the information or tools necessary to ensure appropriate medication use and follow-up monitoring for patients recently discharged from the hospital. In 2003, the ASHP House of Delegates approved the Continuity of Care Policy Statement which aims to strongly encourage pharmacists to assume responsibility for ensuring the continuity of pharmaceutical care as patients move from one setting to another. With this goal in mind, the purpose of this study is to develop a consensus-based Medication Continuity of Care (MCOC) Record to communicate medication-related clinical information from the point of hospital discharge to the point of community-based pharmaceutical care. Furthermore, we seek to determine the effects of the MCOC Record under different provision of pharmaceutical care practices, including community-based medication therapy management (MTM), in high risk patients following hospital discharge compared to usual care.