



Community Health Connections

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Fact Sheet

Hospital Discharge Planning for Group Homes

What is discharge planning?

Discharge planning is the process of helping the person return to their home from the hospital (or if necessary to another facility such as rehab or nursing facility). Discharge planning should begin the day of admission.

Who can help with planning for discharge?

➤ Discharge Planners ➤ Social Workers ➤ Nurses ➤ Physicians

Discharge planning helps to determine if the group home is able to provide required care.

Staff must have proper training by health care professionals to perform new tasks such as g-tubes, special diets, feeding protocols, oxygen administration and wound care. Before you take the person home, contact your agency and discuss the new situation. As soon as it is known that the group home cannot provide the needed care the hospital should be informed.

What about IVs?

The Pennsylvania 6400 Group Home Regulations **DO NOT** permit unlicensed staff to flush or administer fluids or medications through any type of IV line (PICC, HepLock, Central line).

A discharge can be refused anytime the needed care cannot be provided. First, check your agency's policies and procedures and follow the chain of command.

WHEN CAN I REFUSE TO ACCEPT A DISCHARGE?

- If the individual will have an IV or require injections and nurses are not accessible to monitor and provide all required care
- If unlicensed staff have not received proper training for any new procedures
- If the person is not medically stable
- If needed equipment is not available at the home (such as a hoist lift or oxygen)

INSULIN AND OTHER INJECTIONS

Drawing up insulin into the syringe can only be done by:

- Person receiving the insulin if he/she has the ability and was trained to do so
- **Licensed** health care professional (RN or LPN)

Insulin can be administered (injected) by:

- Person receiving the insulin if he/she has the ability and was trained to do so
- Unlicensed staff trained by a certified diabetic educator--must receive this training annually
- **Licensed** health care professional (RN or LPN)

Other injections (shots) such as IM or SubQ injections:

- Cannot be administered by unlicensed staff without a waiver from ODP

This information is in compliance with the DPW and ODP 6400 regulations.

If you have additional questions, contact Community Health Connections at 724-283-0990 or at www.hcqu.org. Click on "Ask the HCQU" and enter your question.

January 2010