To Skill of not to Skill? Medicare Nursing Documentation HARMONY UNIVERSITY The Provider Unit of

Harmony Healthcare International, Inc. (HHI) Presented by: Barbara Patterson-Paul, RN, CRRN Regional Director of Operations Coleen Deschenes, LPN, RAC-CT Regional Consultant

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Today's Objectives

- Identify three key points of effective documentation to support the need for skilled care;
- Describe the two direct and three indirect skilled services; and
- State the goal of supportive skilled nursing documentation

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• **Content:** Describe what you have done. There is beginning, middle and end of every good nursing note

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Communication:

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- Document any changes in the patient
- Document what needs to be changed regarding the plan of care, current changes in the plan of care, medication changes and changes in therapy services

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Basics Of Documentation S.A.D Documentation

Nurses consistently assess patients while giving medications/treatments. HI

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- Documentation should include:
 - •What did you See?
 - •What did you Assess?
 - •What did you **D**o about it?

Basics of Documentation

- The physician relies on documentation in order to make adjustments to the plan of care
- The record must reflect the physical and mental status of the patient upon admission and changes during the stay in the facility. This will help serve as a tool to identify the changing care needs of the patient.

Basics of Documentation Keep the purpose of your entry in your mind Summary of general observations Identification of specific problems Follow-up of previously identified problems Don't leave the next reader in suspense and wondering what happened. When you have identified a problem, follow-up later to include the status at the end of your shift Be descriptive and concise

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Medicare Nursing Documentation

Goal: Skilled nursing documentation should clearly delineate the medical complexity of the patient and skilled nursing services provided

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Basic Medicare Requirements

The patient requires Skilled Nursing Services or Skilled Rehabilitation Services (i.e., services that must be performed by or under the supervision of professional or technical personnel) (See §214.1 – 214.3)

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 In other words, prove in your documentation why services need to be provided at a SNF level of care!

"Practical Matter" Criterion 1. Outpatient services are not available in the area where the individual lives Outpatient services are available in the area where the individual lives, but transportation to the closest facility could cause an excessive physical hardship, be less economical, or less effective that placement in the skilled nursing facility

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"Practical Matter" Criterion 3. The availability at home of a capable and willing **caregiver** should be

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considered, but the care can be furnished only in the skilled nursing facility if home care would be ineffective because there would be **insufficient assistance** at home for the patient/patient to reside there safely

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"Practical Matter" Criterion 4. If the use of alternative services would adversely affect the patient/patient's medical condition, then as a practical matter the daily skilled service(s) can only be provided on an inpatient basis

Basic Medicare Requirements

If any one of these three factors is not supported by the documentation in the patient's record, the SNF stay, even though it might include the delivery of daily skilled services, will not be covered.

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Basic Medicare Requirements

For example, payment for a SNF level of care <u>may not be made</u> if documentation supports a patient's need as <u>intermittent</u> rather than a *daily* skilled service

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 Documentation in the patient's record must support the provision of a skilled level of care

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What is Skilled Care?

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- Requires the skills of qualified technical or professional health personnel such as RN, LPN, PT, OT or SLP
- Must be provided directly by or under the general supervision of a licensed nurse or skilled rehab personnel to assure the safety of the resident and to achieve the medically desired result
 - "General supervision" requires initial direction and periodic inspection of activity
- Ordered by a physician
- Services are needed and provided on a daily basis

What is Skilled Care?

- The need for skilled care must be justified and documented in the medical record
- Conditions may have prompted the initial hospitalization, but also include the conditions that arose during recovery in the SNF

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Skilled Services Categories: Skilled Observation and Assessment

- complicationPotential for further acute episodes
- Identify and Evaluate the need for modification of treatment

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Evaluate initiation of additional medical procedures

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Skilled observation can be required until the treatment regimen is essentially stabilized

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Skilled Services Categories: Skilled Observation and Assessment

A patient with arteriosclerotic heart disease with congestive heart failure requires close observation by skilled nursing personnel for signs of decompensation, abnormal fluid balance, or adverse effects resulting from prescribed medication

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Skilled observation is needed to determine when the digitalis dosage should be reviewed or whether other therapeutic measures should be considered, until the patient's treatment regimen is essentially stabilized.

Skilled Services Categories: Skilled Observation and Assessment

A patient has been hospitalized following a heart attack. Following treatment but before mobilization, he is transferred to the SNF.

Because it is unknown whether exertion will exacerbate the heart disease, skilled observation is reasonable and necessary as mobilization is initiated and continued until the patient's treatment regimen is essentially stabilized.

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Skilled Services Categories: Skilled Observation and Assessment

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A frail 85-year-old man was hospitalized for pneumonia. The infection resolved, but the patient, who had previously maintained adequate nutrition, will not eat or eats poorly.

The patient is transferred to a SNF for monitoring of fluid and nutrient intake and the assessment of the need for tube feeding and assisted feeding if required. Observation and monitoring by skilled nursing personnel of the patient's oral intake is required to prevent dehydration.

Skilled Services Categories: Skilled Observation and Assessment

A patient left the acute hospital on a high dosage of Coumadin with daily clotting time studies.

Assessment and observation is needed until a maintenance dosage is attained and the patient/resident shows no adverse symptoms. Regulation is an integral part of this patient/resident's coverage. Ongoing observation and assessment, notifying the physician and multiple changes in the plan of care, are also skilled in nature.

Skilled Services Categories: Skilled Observation and Assessment

- If a patient was admitted for skilled observation but **did not** develop a further acute episode or complication, the skilled observation services still are covered so long as there was reasonable probability for such a complication or further acute episode
 - "Reasonable probability" means that a potential complication or further acute episode is a likely possibility





- Potential for serious complications
- High probability of relapse
- Promoting safety
- Meeting medical needs
- Promoting recovery in the resident's overall condition

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Skilled Services Categories:

- Although any of the required services could be performed by a properly instructed person, that person would not have the capability to understand the relationship among the services and their effect on each other
- Since the nature of the patient's condition, his age and his immobility create a high potential for serious complications, such an understanding is essential to assure the patient's recovery and safety

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Skilled Services Categories:

The management of this plan of care requires skilled nursing personnel until the patient's treatment regimen is essentially stabilized, even though the individual services involved are supportive in nature and not require skilled nursing personnel

Skilled Services Categories: Management and Evaluation of a Care Plan

- Example: An aged patient is recovering from pneumonia, is lethargic, is disoriented, has residual chest congestion, is confined to bed as a result of his debilitated condition, and requires restraints at times
 - To decrease the chest congestion, the physician has prescribed frequent changes in position, coughing and deep breathing. While the residual chest congestion alone would not represent a high risk factor, the patient's immobility and confusion represent complicating factors when coupled with the chest congestion, could create high probability of a relapse.



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Skilled Services Categories: Teaching and Training

> • **Teaching and Training:** Activities which require skilled nursing or skilled rehabilitation personnel to teach a patient and/or family member how to manage the patient's treatment regimen



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Nursing Documentation: Flow Sheet and Treatment Sheets

- A bit about flow sheets:
 - Flow sheets (e.g., MARs and TARs) may prove a daily skilled service was rendered but they do not prove it was reasonable and necessary and needed to be delivered in the SNF

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• Descriptive medical record documentation **reflecting the critical thinking** of the nurse is a must!



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Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation

Should evidence the critical thinking, judgment decision making by skilled nurses HHI

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Daily nursing notes should evidence assessment of the data recorded on flow sheets and treatment sheets etc. vs. restating the data

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Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation

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- "Daily Skilled Nursing Observation and Assessment of..." to start the note
- Address all areas identified on Medicare Documentation cue sheets or Medicare cue sheets
- Medicare documentation must provide an accurate, timely and complete picture of the skilled nursing needs of the resident

Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation Documentation must justify the clinical reasons and medical necessity for: Medicare Part A coverage The skilled services being delivered The on-going need for coverage

F309: Quality of Care

Each resident must receive and the facility must provide the necessary care and services to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being, in accordance with the comprehensive assessment and plan of care

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Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation

- Diagnosis Driven
 - Diagnosis related to acute <u>hospitalizations</u>
 - Those which arose at the SNF
 - Chronic conditions that <u>potentially</u> <u>complicate</u> the patient's clinical status, stability or level of care needed

Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation

- Supportive skilled documentation includes the following terms or phrases:
 - Skilled neurological assessment resulted in...
 - Observation and assessment for potential complications related to
 - The patient requires daily skilled management and evaluation of care plan...
 - The patient is at high risk for falls secondary to.....

Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation

- Supportive skilled documentation includes the following terms or phrases (Cont.)
 - The patients' medication was adjusted to... on going skilled assessment of medication regime will be needed to promote recovery and ensure medical safety

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- The patient continues to require daily skilled nursing as her treatment regiment is not essentially stabilized and there is potential for recurrence of
- The patient continues to require daily skilled rehab for.....

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Nursing Documentation: Daily Narrative Documentation

Supporting the MDS:

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- Key MDS items drive the Medicare rate for the patient
- Documentation to support coding is a must!
- Key areas include diagnoses, the four late loss activities of daily living (ADLs), mood, behavior, treatments and programs (among others)

Nursing Documentation: Admission and Re-Admission Nursing Notes

- Admission Nursing Note:
 - Follows the admission nursing assessment and is based on those findings
 - Is done by the nurse admitting the patient
 - Incorporates information in referral and assessment data
 - This nurse knows more about the patient than any other nurse will for several days

Nursing Documentation: Image: State St

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Nursing Documentation: Leave of Absence

- Exact Time and date left the facility and returned
- Assist level and number assisted with transfers provided by staff
- Results and changes to plan of care upon return from medical appointments, tests and Emergency room visits
- List any new skilled needs which have been identified

Condition upon return





General maintenance care of colostomy and ileostomy

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- Administering oral meds, eye drops and ointments
- Palliative skin care

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- Routine incontinence care
- Dressing changes for chronic or uninfected post-surgical skin conditions

Non-Supportive Nursing Documentation

- Plateau in progress
- Voiced no complaints
- Patient requires custodial care
- Patient requires intermittent care
- Patient is unable to follow directions
- Patient requires intermittent services

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Non-Supportive Nursing Documentation Patient has poor rehabilitation potential

Patients medical treatment is essentially stabilized

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- Refuses to participate in therapy (instead give the reason the patient is unable)
- Condition stable
- Slept well/family into visit/enjoyed recreation program

Nursing Documentation: Closing Thoughts

- Daily skilled nursing services and documentation should anchor skilled coverage
- Patients are, for the most part, hospitalized with acute medical issues that ultimately impact function that further warrants a program of skilled rehabilitation
- Keep in mind that it is the acute medical conditions treated during the qualifying stay that supports the need for daily skilled nursing observation and treatments with or without skilled rehabilitation

Nursing Documentation: Closing Thoughts

- Some questions to answer in your notes:
 - Why does the patient require **24 hour care** in the SNF?
 - What does the nurse do to **ensure medical safety and promote recovery**?
 - What patient issues require **licensed nurse** intervention?

Remember: Nursing always anchors the patient in skilled care!







