

Care Plan Documentation

Choosing a Care Plan (Page 1 of 2)

- Care Plans are disease or condition specific.
- The Care Plan you choose for your patient should be based on the admitting diagnosis or condition.
- Care Plans are designed to apply to all levels of care there are no department specific care plans, Newborn and NICU care plans are they ONLY exception.
- If you can't find an appropriate care plan, the General Medical or Surgical care plan can be used.

Patient admitted with multiple reasons or co-morbidities:

- Do not add 2 care plans.
- Multiple diagnosis/conditions:
 - ❖ Choose the care plan for the **primary reason for admission or the highest acuity diagnosis/condition.**
 - ❖ Then add problems to address other conditions if they are not already on the plan.
- Co-Morbidities:
 - ❖ The care plan for admission diagnosis /condition.
 - ❖ Add additional problems related to the co-morbidity ONLY if the co-morbidity is unstable.
- Refer to the chart on the reverse side of this job aide for guidance.

Continued on next page

Care Plan Documentation

Choosing a Care Plan - continued (Page 2 of 2)

| Patient admitted with.... | Choose..... | Example: | Care Plan |
|---|--|--|--|
| Multiple diagnoses/ conditions | The care plan for the primary reason for admission or the highest acuity diagnosis/ condition. Then add problems to address other conditions if they are not already on the plan. | A patient is admitted for Total Joint Replacement and Heart Failure. | <i>Total Joint Replacement</i> AND add additional problems addressing Heart Failure symptoms/concerns if they not already on the TIR care plan. |
| Co-morbidities | The care plan for admission diagnosis /condition. Add additional problems related to the co-morbidity ONLY if the co-morbidity is unstable. | A patient is admitted with Heart Failure and also has diabetes. | <i>General Cardiac</i> AND only add the additional problem of <i>Glucose Level Abnormal</i> if the diabetes is unstable. |
| One primary diagnosis or condition, then acquires a different one which becomes the patients primary care concern | On the Intervention List, complete the care plan which was initiated at admission and add the new one ONLY if the existing care plan does not adequately meet the new focus of care. | A patient is admitted for Heart Failure and then has a significant stroke. | The <i>General Cardiac</i> intervention would be completed on the Intervention List & the <i>Stroke</i> care plan would be added. The Additional Problems intervention would be used to address remaining concerns related to Heart Failure. |