

Joint Health and Social Care Plans for Stroke Patients - South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Project background overview

In line with metric 7 of the Accelerating Stroke Improvement programme, that *85% of patients should leave home with a recognized care plan*, multidisciplinary health and social care staff at Princess Royal University Hospital received training to develop care plans to meet stroke patients' health and social care needs on discharge from hospital.

Key 'champions' across the acute and community sector were identified to implement and evaluate the project.

Goals and Objectives

All stroke patients on the HASU at Princess Royal University Hospital, who have a Bromley GP, are given a stroke patient handbook which includes the joint care plan and also useful information for patients and carers, including helpful contact details.

The joint care plan is reviewed regularly during a patients' inpatient stay and community teams are encouraged to continue using plan with those patients referred.

Project highlights

- Patients empowered to make more informed decisions about their care and more supported in discharge with a named point of contact
- Introduction of handbook helped ward staff to ensure patient and family involved in care planning
- Improved communication between acute, community and health and social care staff
- Supports carers as well as patients
- Engaged with staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich and began implementation there



Lessons learned

- *Evaluation & data collection was a challenge therefore no record of the number of patients discharged with a completed care plan, only those given handbook on admission.
- Difficult to collect data about services patients were referred on to.
- Maintaining regular contact with stakeholders a challenge due to changing staff and structures.
- On reflection patient handbooks not the right tool for documenting discharge care plans.

Results

89% of patients admitted during a five week period in April/May 2011 received a stroke patient handbook/care plan*.

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