

Hospital Checklist

Medication Check

- Are meds being given the same as “regular” meds?
- Note any generic changes
- Note other changes made and date – watch for reaction to changes.
These are easier for family/close friends to notice, but always a challenge in the hospital as other conditions are being treated.
- Oxygen issues or breathing treatments? If so, what amount, how long is it given, how often?

Physician Check

- Which doctor is taking care of what diagnosis
- How are doctors communicating with each other
(just knowing the doctors’ notes are on the chart isn’t enough. It’s OK for a caregiver to ask if the gastroenterologist’s medication will interfere with the new heart medicine the cardiologist has just ordered)

Coordination Check

- Is there a caseworker to manage care notes and med changes from different doctors?
- If not, how do you coordinate communication?

Test Verification

- Is the test being ordered one needed for diagnosis and treatment? If so, how? If not, why ordered?
- Keep a list of tests given in hospital

Discharge Summary

- Request a “DS” which will list all tests given and evaluation of discharge condition

Follow-up needed

- Note what tests are needed as follow-up and who gets the reports
- Get copies of initial test reports for notebook and comparison
- Find out if the hospital has scheduled follow-up appointments with doctors or if you have to make the appointments.

Supply Notes

- What personal care supplies may be needed now that weren’t before – special soaps, wipes, creams, etc.
- Canes, walkers, special seats

Caregiving Check

- Discharge living environment: Independent? Assisted?
- Change in routine: need in-home care? If so, what kind, for how long? Who coordinates?