

Home Health Standards/Care by Specialty

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Cardiovascular System Care

Nursing:

- Observe for signs/symptoms of SOB, DOE, and/or chest/leg pain
- Observe color of skin, oral mucosa and nail beds; note pallor or cyanosis
- Assess vital signs
- Assess for postural hypotension in patient complaining of dizziness
- Auscultate lung fields
- Assess lower extremities for edema
- Assess lower extremities for arterial or venous stasis ulcers
- Assess lower extremities for signs/symptoms of impaired circulation
- Obtain daily weights, observing for weight gain of 2 or more pounds in a day or 5 or more pounds in a week; precise weight monitoring and management
- Assess patient status post-cardiac surgery for signs/symptoms of infection, other complications
- Assess surgical site
- Assessment of medications, especially OTC and herbal
- Teach patient/caregiver about anticoagulation therapy
- Measure pulse oximetry
- Teach patient/family to measure/record pulse in patient taking digitalis
- Observe for signs, symptoms of digoxin toxicity
- Monitor nitroglycerin use
- Teach signs/symptoms of potassium (K^+) loss and food choices high in K^+
- Teach patient about avoiding/managing constipation
- Instruct patient/family regarding postural hypotension and safety implications
- Initiate fall protocol for patient with history of falls or postural hypotension
- Teach safe and correct use of home oxygen therapy
- Instruct fall prevention interventions
- Assess need and initiate referral(s) for other agency/community services

Physical Therapy:

- Assess vital signs at rest, during and after activity or exercise
- Assess for dyspnea
- Assess physiologic response to position change
- Assess cardiovascular signs/symptoms in response to increased oxygen demand of activity/exercise
- Teach progressive endurance training/reconditioning/exercise prescription
- Teach functional mobility retraining
- Teach therapeutic exercises for strengthening and ROM for specific deficits
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs for all instructions provided

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Evaluate swallowing problems post-surgery or post-AMI

Cardiovascular System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Instruct in safety and use of assistive and adaptive devices techniques and assistive devices for maximum support and independence in ADLs
- Instruct in energy conservation, work simplification, and breathing techniques for maximum functional activity level
- Teach graded resumption/progression of self-care tasks
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed for maximum safety and independence
- Teach therapeutic exercise for strength, ROM
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs
- Teach modification of tasks to accommodate cardiac/sternal precautions

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient's adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Other Considerations:

- Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation program

Endocrine System Care

Nursing:

- Assess vital signs
- Assess skin texture for signs of dryness/coarseness/coolness or moistness/smoothness/warmth
- Determine bowel movement frequency
- Assess for signs/symptoms of hypo and hyperglycemia
- Assess and monitor patient's pain (neuropathy and other)
- Assess lower extremities for signs of skin breakdown, stasis ulcers, cellulitis
- Determine nutritional intake and level of activity
- Assess patient's technique for glucose testing and insulin administration
- Test fasting Glucose as ordered
- Test urine for ketones if blood glucose elevated as ordered
- Initiate comprehensive patient education protocol, including signs/symptoms and actions to take related to hypo/hyperglycemia, insulin preparation, administration, and storage, "sick day" care, who to call with questions and other educational components to support self-management
- Teach patient/caregiver how to use flow sheet for tracking of labs, capillary blood glucose checks, sites of injections, and other self-observational information to be tracked/trended
- Instruct patient and caregiver on the long-term consequences/complications to other body system (e.g., C-V, renal, vision) if diabetes is not well-controlled
- Instruct diabetic foot care and monitoring for presence of skin lesions on lower extremities
- Teach patient/family safe home glucose monitoring and the correct disposal of sharps
- Instruct patient/caregiver basics of insulin administration
- Administer insulin as ordered
- Initiate fall protocol for patient with history of falls, postural hypotension, or decreased sensation in feet
- Instruct on adaptations to accommodate for visual loss
- Teach patient/caregiver regarding diet and the need to eat meals at consistent times and actions to take when a meal is missed
- Assess need and initiate referral(s) for other agency/community services, including aide, PT/OT/SLP, social worker, dietitian, diabetes educator, pharmacist, wound specialist, and others

Physical Therapy:

- Evaluation, including sensory assessment of feet/hands
- Therapeutic exercises for strengthening, ROM, or balance
- Functional mobility retraining
- Reconditioning and endurance retraining as needed for daily functioning
- Assess for adaptive footwear
- Assessment and instructions in wheelchair and/or prosthetic training if needed, instruct patient/caregiver in safety in balance, gait/ambulation and transfer training
- Modalities for neuropathy-related sensory deficits, if indicated

Endocrine System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Evaluation, including sensory assessment of hands and visual testing
- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs
- Instruct in energy conservation and task modifications for maximum functional activity level
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed for maximum safety and independence
- Teach therapeutic exercise for strength, ROM, and coordination of UE as needed for ADLs and functional mobility
- Instruct patient/caregiver on splints and/or prosthesis for functional positing
- Instruct on compensatory techniques for UE neuropathy
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs for all instructions provided
- Instruct on devices/techniques to accommodate low vision

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient's adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting Plan of Care implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Gastrointestinal System Care

Nursing:

- Determine height, weight
- Assess skin turgor
- Assess mouth and throat
- Auscultate four quadrants of abdomen for bowel sounds
- Palpate abdomen for areas of pain or masses
- Assess bowel movements
- Assess nutrition and fluid intake
- Obtain and track daily weights
- Assess signs/symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea
- Assess/teach enteral feeding
- Assess skin of tube/ostomy site
- Observe and assess patient for complications related to aspiration, diarrhea, distention, impaction, others
- Comprehensive patient education protocol for tube feeding
- Venipuncture for monitoring blood levels
- Teach care and management of ostomy
- Teach care and management of pumps used for administration of nutritional formulas
- Teach patient/caregiver how to track I & O
- Teach site care to insertion area
- Teach regarding ordered irrigation procedures
- Teach the importance and methods of checking tube placement before every feeding
- Teach patient/caregiver S/S of obstruction of tube, actions to take, and whom to call
- Teach procedure for changing feeding bags/tubing per orders/protocol
- Administer/teach administration of prescribed medications via tube
- Administer B-12 injection per physician order
- Initiate plan for new tube-feeding regimen as prescribed by physician
- Teach regarding diet
- Implement bowel management/constipation prevention program

Physical Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Therapeutic exercises for strengthening, balance, and endurance retraining as needed for functional mobility
- Instruct patient/caregiver in safety in balance, gait/ambulation, and transfer training
- Educate patient/caregiver on home programs for all instructions provided

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Evaluation, including swallowing assessment and determination of need for further testing to rule out swallowing disorder
- Recommend appropriate liquid and food consistencies and progressive diet as safe for patient
- Instruct/perform techniques and exercise to stimulate or strengthen oral-motor function
- Instruct in safe swallowing techniques/airway protection

Gastrointestinal System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs
- Training in compensatory techniques for ostomy/colostomy care and associated hygiene activities
- Instruct in energy conservation
- Assess and instruct in home modification
- Teach therapeutic exercise

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Genitourinary/Renal System Care

Nursing:

- Observe external genitalia for abnormalities
- Assess urine output
- Assess for signs/symptoms of UTI
- Assess/manage Foley catheter
- Comprehensive patient education protocol for catheter care
- Instruct in ways to promote continence and decrease incontinent episodes
- Teach care of ileal conduit
- Teach patient/caregiver of intake and output
- Administer EPO injection
- Instruct care of suprapubic catheter
- Insert/change indwelling catheter as ordered
- Initiate plan for renal diet and teach appropriate food/fluid choices
- Teach regarding electrolyte and fluid restrictions
- Monitor intake and output

Physical Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Therapeutic exercises
- Pelvic floor strengthening
- Instruct patient/caregiver in safety in balance, ambulation, and transfer training
- Educate patient/caregiver on home programs
- Assessment and instructions in wheelchair if needed

Occupational Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs and personal hygiene associated with disease process
- Training in therapeutic exercises
- Instruct in energy conservation
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed for maximum safety and independence
- Teach therapeutic exercise
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs

Genitourinary/Renal System Care

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Other Considerations:

- Teach regarding need for infection control precautions and the specific steps/activities to support these precautions

Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic System Care

Nursing:

- Assess orientation
- Assess color of sclera and skin; observe for jaundice
- Assess color of urine and stools
- Measure abdominal girth
- Assess signs/symptoms of deterioration
- Assess, monitor for presence of, fluid retention/edema
- Monitor intake and output
- Teach patient/caregiver record-keeping for daily weights and other aspects of self-observational care
- Teach regarding electrolyte and fluid restrictions
- Perform/teach site care of drainage tube

Physical Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Therapeutic exercises
- Instruct patient/caregiver for safety in balance ambulation, and transfer training
- Educate patient/caregiver on home programs for all instructions provided
- Assessment and instructions in wheelchair and/or other assistive devices as needed

Occupational Therapy:

- Evaluation
- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices
- Instruct in energy conservation and diaphragmatic breathing for maximum functional activity level and minimal SOB
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed
- Teach therapeutic exercises
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Infection and Immunologic System Care

Nursing:

- Obtain temperature; oral, tympanic, axillary
- Assess for signs/symptoms of inflammation/infection
- Palpate for swollen lymph nodes
- Palpate abdomen for signs/symptoms of tenderness
- If intravenous line, assess entry site for signs of migration
- If intravenous line, assess entry site for signs/symptoms of inflammation and/or infection
- Assess immunocompromised patient's skin and mucous membranes for problems, including bacterial infection, thrush, rash, or other changes
- Instruct regarding infection control and standard precautions at home
- Teach patient to call nurse for parenteral or central line problems
- Instruct immunocompromised patient/caregiver regarding pet care and infection control, cross contamination; check with physician about certain types of pets
- Instruct patient/caregiver in all aspects of effective handwashing techniques, proper care and disposal of body fluids/excretions, soiled dressings, supplies, washing of linens, use of bleach solution, etc.
- Administer antibiotic as ordered
- Teach patient/family signs and symptoms of phlebitis, occlusion, displacement, infection, other problems
- Establish/start peripheral line for infusion as ordered
- Perform central/peripheral line dressing changes using aseptic technique or per prescribed plan
- Teach immunosuppressed patient/caregiver regarding food preparation and handling, particularly hand washing
- Evaluate for signs/symptoms of dehydration
- Counsel patient with anorexia about diet and nutrition
- Encourage intake and supplements to maintain lean body mass
- Weigh patient every visit and report changes to physician
- Monitor intake and output

Physical Therapy:

- Teach strengthening exercise/home exercise program
- Implement progressive ambulation program
- Teach endurance training/conditioning
- Teach therapeutic exercises to patient/caregiver
- Instruct on bed mobility exercises
- Assess and teach regarding safe balance, gait, and transfer training
- Instruct patient/caregiver in pain management related to mobility

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Evaluation of swallow and speech
- Educate patient/caregiver on safety precautions and prevention of swallowing dysfunction, including food textures and body positioning
- Teach exercises for maximum strength in articulation proficiency for verbal/vocal expression and for lip, tongue, and facial control for maximum swallowing skills
- Teach alternative and effective communication program to enable the patient to express his/her needs, even if only for periods of fatigue

Infection and Immunologic System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs and related functional mobility, within the patient's tolerance
- Instruct in energy conservation
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed for maximum safety and independence
- Teach therapeutic exercise for maximum UE strength
- Assess and address the patient's needs to improve body image and other psychological effects of the disease process
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs for all instructions provided

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Integumentary System Care

Nursing:

- Observe skin for any lesions (skin abnormalities) or wounds
- Assess skin color, condition, texture, temperature, turgor, edema
- Assess for need of special support surfaces to enhance healing or prevent skin breakdown
- Monitor patient for evidence of infection, metabolic problems, or other complications in patient on TPN
- Evaluate healing process and progress toward outcome
- Assess peripheral circulation
- Administer Braden/other standardized tool/scale to identify/determine risk for skin breakdown
- Instruct on use of/care of special support surfaces
- Teach patient/caregiver effective hand-washing techniques and infection control techniques
- Teach patient/caregiver ordered wound care and dressing change, including dressing disposal
- Teach operation and troubleshooting of wound vac machine
- Provide wound care to site
- Instruct pressure ulcer prevention interventions
- Teach patient correct application of compression stockings
- Medicate patient with pain medication before dressing change
- Teach signs/symptoms of infection
- Teach about the need for safe, clean storage of supplies
- Teach wound inspection, care, infection control, adhering to standard precautions, etc.
- Teach patient/caregiver protocol for disposal of biohazard sharps, saturated dressings, etc.
- Initiate plan for high protein/vitamin/mineral diet and food choices available
- Contact wound specialist for assessment of wound and recommend plan to discuss with physician for possible change in POC
- Refer to wound clinic as appropriate

Physical Therapy:

- Assess activities, positions, and postures that produce trauma or aggravate the wound
- Assess circulatory and sensory status of wound site
- Therapeutic exercises for maximum strengthening and endurance training for mobility and daily functioning
- Instruct patient/caregiver in safety in balance, ambulation and transfers
- Instruct regarding wheelchair, prosthetic and/or other assistive devices for functional mobility such as ambulation, bed mobility, transfers, etc.
- Teach pain management
- Instruct in LE prosthetics and functional positioning for prevention of pressure ulcers
- Educate patient/caregiver on each home program
- Provide strengthening exercises/home exercise program
- Teach bed mobility and transfers

Integumentary System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs; coordinate with nurse for bowel and bladder training
- Instruct in energy conservation
- Assess and instruct in home modification
- Instruct on use of splints, prosthetics, and/or other supports for functional positioning, to prevent pressure ulcers
- Teach therapeutic exercise for maximum UE strength and coordination as needed for ADLs
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs

Medical Social Services:

- Evaluation of emotional and social factors affecting POC implementation
- Evaluation/assessment as patient's problems adversely impact the POC and impede progress toward identified goals
- Home assessment
- Financial counseling
- Identification and resolution of problems with treatment plan implementation

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Musculoskeletal System Care

Nursing:

- Observe/assess skeletal structure, body alignment, and musculature; note obvious abnormalities such as amputations or joint deformities/deviations
- Observe mobility
- Observe patient transfer
- Assess patient's ADL status
- Observe for and note any assistive devices the patient uses during ambulation or ADLs
- Assess for need of special adaptive equipment
- Assess muscle weakness and swallowing problems in patients with myasthenia gravis
- Assess/evaluate patient for specialized support surfaces to avoid pressure ulcers
- Assess wound site
- Teach family and caregiver proper, safe body alignment
- Teach patient/caregiver ordered wound care
- Teach/initiate home safety program/fall protocol
- Teach patient/caregiver about anticoagulation therapy
- Teach safety/bleeding precautions of patient on anticoagulant therapy
- Teach patient about and observe for adverse side effects
- Provide wound care
- Remove staples or stitches, provide pin site care
- Comfort measures of patient's choice provided to patient who is essentially bed-bound/chair-bound and alert
- Teach regarding anticoagulant medication interactions with foods
- Initiate fall protocol in patient with history of falls
- Teach fall prevention interventions

Physical Therapy:

- Strengthening exercises/home exercise program
- Assessment of wheelchair and seating
- Assessment of upper body strength for trapeze or other methods to maintain function/bed mobility
- Progressive ambulation
- Establish and/or revise home exercise program
- Provide heat or cold therapy as specified per orders
- Teach CPM and immobilizer use
- Teach safe use of crutches or other ambulatory devices
- Endurance training/conditioning
- Therapeutic exercises
- Bed mobility exercises
- Balance, gait, and transfer training
- Stair climbing
- Pain management
- Instruct patient/caregiver in home safety, potential complications, precautions, edema
- Initiate prosthetic training in collaboration with prosthetic supplier
- Teach home exercise program with progressive ambulation to walker
- Teach patient/caregiver safe ambulation, transfer, and site care

Musculoskeletal System Care

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Evaluation of swallow and speech skills
- Educate patient/caregiver on safety precautions and prevention of swallowing dysfunction
- Teach exercises for maximum articulation proficiency for verbal/vocal expression
- Teach alternative and effective communication program to enable expression of needs
- Initiate dysphagia and speech program
- Word fluency exercises

Occupational Therapy:

- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs
- Instruct in energy conservation and work simplification
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed
- Instruct on use of splints, prosthetics, and/or other support devices for functional positioning, joint protection, and precautions for preventing skin breakdown
- Teach therapeutic exercise
- Assess and address the need to improve body image and other psychological effects of the disease process
- Educate patient/caregiver(s) on home programs for all instructions provided
- Residual site wrapping/shrinkage
- Teach pre-prosthetic training and exercise program
- Assess for adaptive equipment for independent ADLs

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Neurologic System Care

Nursing:

- Assess patient's level of consciousness, orientation, memory
- Assess pupils
- Assess ability to move muscle groups
- Observe patient mobility, transfer, and ambulation
- Perform complete pain assessment
- Assess skin at risk for pressure ulcer
- Teach proper, safe body alignment and positions
- Teach regarding skin care needs
- Teach patient/caregiver ordered wound care
- Teach caregiver to observe for increased secretions and teach safe suctioning when needed
- Teach caregiver daily care of catheter
- Teach family care of the immobilized or bedridden patient
- Teach/initiate home safety program/fall protocol
- Instruct interventions to mitigate pain
- Instruct fall prevention interventions
- Provide wound care as ordered

Physical Therapy:

- Teach therapeutic exercises
- Instruct patient/caregiver in safety with balance, ambulation, and transfers
- Instruct regarding walker, wheelchair and/or other assistive devices for functional mobility
- Assess and instruct in home modification for safety and independence in mobility
- Provide use of physical agents/modalities to facilitate muscle retraining
- Instruct in lower extremity positioning for prevention of pressure ulcers

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Evaluation of swallow, speech, and cognitive function, with ongoing re-assessment
- Educate patient/caregiver on safety precautions and prevention of swallowing dysfunction; including food textures and body positioning to reduce risk of aspiration
- Teach program for articulation proficiency for verbal skills, both expressive and receptive (dysphasia)
- Assess and establish program for memory and other cognitive functions as needed; coordinate with Occupational Therapy
- Teach alternative and effective communication program to enable expression of needs

Occupational Therapy:

- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs, including hygiene
- Instruct in energy conservation for maximum functional activity level
- Assess and establish cognitive retraining program and compensatory system, coordinate with Speech Therapy
- Assess and instruct in home modification as needed for maximum safety and independence
- Instruct on use of splints and/or other support devices
- Teach therapeutic exercise
- Assess and address the needs to improve body image and other psychological effects of the disease process

Neurologic System Care

Medical Social Services:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting Plan of Care implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate patient for nursing home placement

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Oncologic/Hematologic System Care

Nursing:

- Assess cardiopulmonary system
- Assess for signs/symptoms of infection
- Assess skin for signs/symptoms of bruising or bleeding
- Assess urine and stools for signs/symptoms of bleeding
- Perform complete pain assessment for each pain site
- Observation of side effects of chemotherapy
- Assess/evaluate patient for specialized support surfaces to avoid pressure ulcers
- Ongoing management and assessment of the effectiveness of the plan/program for pain and other symptom control/relief
- Assess patient/caregiver anxiety level and coping skills and support use of positive coping skills
- Teach patient/caregiver importance of round-the-clock and regularly scheduled analgesia
- Teach all aspects of tracheostomy, colostomy care
- Teach caregiver skin care
- Teach pressure ulcer prevention interventions
- Teach patient/caregiver about radiation/chemo therapy
- Provide wound care as ordered
- Maintain optimal nutrition and hydration
- Teach safe and correct use of home oxygen therapy, and provide written information on safe use of oxygen
- Nutritional evaluation of patient with cancer for optimal nutrition/hydration
- Comprehensive nutritional assessment and plan
- Provide information on safest diet consistency
- Evaluation of patient with anorexia, weight loss

Physical Therapy:

- Teach therapeutic exercises for maximum strength, function, ROM
- Instruct patient/caregiver adaptive techniques for maximum independence and safety with balance, ambulation, and transfers
- Assessment and instructions for use of walker, wheelchair and/or other assistive devices for functional mobility
- Assess and instruct in home modification for safety and independence in mobility
- Assess and instruct in functional positioning for prevention of pressure ulcers and joint contractures

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Evaluation of swallow, speech and cognitive function, with ongoing re-assessment
- Educate patient/caregiver on safety precautions and prevention of swallowing dysfunction
- Teach program for dysphagia
- Instruction in voice training with prosthesis
- Teach program for articulation proficiency for verbal skills, both expressive and receptive (dysphasia)
- Teach alternative and effective communication program

Oncologic/Hematologic System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Instruct in safety and use of adaptive techniques and assistive devices for maximum independence in ADLs, including hygiene
- Instruct in energy conservation and diaphragmatic breathing techniques
- Assess and instruct in home modification for maximum safety and independence
- Instruct on use of splints and/or other support devices
- Teach therapeutic exercise for maximum UE strength, ROM, and coordination
- Assess and establish cognitive retraining program and compensatory system, coordinate with SLP

Medical Social Services:

- Evaluation/assessment as patient's problems adversely impact the POC and impede progress toward identified goals
- Assess the patient's adjustment to cancer diagnosis and associated problems
- Identify eligibility for services and benefits
- Psychosocial assessment of patient regarding disease, prognosis, and implications
- Consideration of hospice services, other palliative care

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Pulmonary/Respiratory System Care

Nursing:

- Observe patient breathing
- Observe skin color, oral mucosa, and nail beds
- Auscultate lung fields
- Obtain pulse oximetry reading
- Assess capillary refill of nail beds
- Assess cough
- Assess oxygen use
- Assess tracheostomy
- Assess oxygen decompensation at rest and with activity using O₂ saturation pulse oximetry
- Assess need for chest physiotherapy, other pulmonary treatment
- Assess wound site (specify), change dressings (specify frequency), and teach patient/caregiver wound care, infection control, and symptoms that necessitate additional care
- Measure pulse oximetry as ordered
- Teach use, care, and management of respiratory treatments/rx
- Teach patient effective coughing, deep breathing, and pursed lip or diaphragmatic breathing
- Teach and train family/caregivers about disease and importance of infection control procedures
- Teach home use of peak flow meter, incentive spirometer
- Teach patient/family about pneumonia and symptomatology and signs/symptoms that necessitates calling the doctor
- Teach care of tracheostomy
- Teach CPR with tracheostomy
- Provide/teach chest PT
- Teach patient/caregiver ordered wound care and dressing changes
- Teach patient about the safe disposal of copious secretions
- Teach safe and correct use of home oxygen therapy, and provide written information on safe use of oxygen
- Provide adequate nutrition to prevent malnutrition and loss of respiratory muscle mass

Physical Therapy:

- Teach therapeutic exercises for maximum strength, balance
- Teach adaptive techniques and diaphragmatic breathing for ambulation and transfers, for minimal SOB, and maximum safety and independence

Speech-Language Therapy:

- Comprehensive speech and swallowing evaluation
- Evaluation of speech/communication options
- Teach care of voice prosthesis, including removal, cleaning, and safe site maintenance
- Develop and teach communication system
- Establish home maintenance program and teach patient/caregiver
- Laryngeal speech program
- Assess and teach regarding new Electrolarynx
- Teach swallowing/safe swallowing skills
- Coach patient in adaptive activities to trach
- Food texture recommendations

Pulmonary/Respiratory System Care

Occupational Therapy:

- Teach home modification for safety with ADLs and functional mobility
- Teach adaptive techniques and use of assistive devices for maximum safety and independence in ADLs
- Teach energy conservation, diaphragmatic breathing, and relaxation techniques for SOB

Medical Social Worker:

- Evaluate patient adjustment to health problems
- Assess emotional/financial factors impacting POC implementation
- Provide financial counseling
- Identify community supports/services
- Assess social and emotional factors
- Provide counseling
- Provide community resource referral(s)
- Evaluate home, family/caregiver ability and availability
- Evaluate and assist patient for placement if needed.

Home Health Aide:

- Assist patient with ADLs
- Check vital signs and report
- Ambulate patient as instructed by therapists or RN
- Simple housekeeping related to patient ADL care only

Questions to ask in the MD office

1. Do you have any patient who had recent fall?
2. Do you have any patient who has more and more difficulty in walking?
Performing ADLs?
3. Do you have any patient who has hard time managing his/her medication and needs help set up the Mediset or teaching?
4. Do you have any patient who is a newly diagnosed Diabetes and need diabetes teaching?
5. Do you have any patient who has been losing weight? Poor appetite? Decreased energy?
6. Do you have any patient who is deteriorating from dementia? Impaired cognitive function? Unsafe at home?
7. Do you have any patient who you have concerns about home safety? That you feel patient should not live by himself/herself?
8. Do you have any patient who is bedbound or wheelchair bound and has (or had) stage one or above skin breakdown (decubitus)?
9. Do you have any patient who has CHF and has hard time managing their signs and symptoms at home?
10. Do you have any patient who need lab work (blood draw) because of the recent illness? (must have a recent illness /deterioration to justify blood draw)
11. Do you have any patient who recently visited ER and need to be followed up at home?
12. Do you have any patient who you have concerns about his/her caregiver?
(caregiver burnt –out, incompetent or possible negligence or abuse?)

Home Health Referral Process

Is the patient eligible for home health service?

- a. Is home bound
- b. Has skilled needs- RN, PT, OT, ST, MSW
- c. Needs intermittent care
- d. Has primary MD to order and oversee home health service

Call the home health agency and send the following documentation

Hospital and SNF:

- a. H&P- signed and dated by MD
- b. Discharge order (with discipline orders and reason for service)
- c. Discharge summary
- d. Discharge medication
- e. MD progress notes within last 90 days, signed and dated by MD, including current diagnoses and/or problem list

Clinic referral:

- a. H&P- signed and dated by MD
- b. MD progress notes within last 90 days, signed and dated by MD, including current diagnoses and/or problem list
- c. MD Order for home health: primary diagnosis, discipline ordered and reason for services

Home Health agency's responsibilities:

- a. Check insurance eligibility, obtain authorization, review FTF, send admitting clinician to perform Start of Care (within 48 hours after discharge/referral)
- b. Report to primary MD of assessment findings, including ordering other disciplines
- c. Complete plan of treatment and send to primary MD for signature
- d. Inform MD for any change of conditions, may need to send additional orders if appropriate