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Transferring Patients from Acute Care to Nursing Homes

ABSTRACT: Medical Directors Association releases guidance on transfers.

AMDA has released a new white paper highlighting successful and effective processes for transferring patients from acute care to skilled nursing facilities. The goal of the paper is to “guide policies and procedures that enhance communication and support safe, patient-centered care” during transfer between sites of care. The current system of care transitions contains significant deficits, according to the paper. AMDA suggests some basic steps to serve as a basis for ensuring safe patient transfer. These include consistent discussion and documentation of end-of-life care preferences, educating the family about reasons for transfer, prompt and consistent medication reconciliation, and primary consideration of the patient's individual preferences. The document is available at <http://www.amda.com/tools/clinical/TOCCPG/index.html>.

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