

Guide for Identifying and Resolving Discharge Medication Accessibility Problems in New York State



Identify Drug Coverage and Pharmacy	
Potential Problem	Guidance for Resolution
Will patient be paying cash for the discharge medications?	Compare and inform patient of prices and possible discounts for local pharmacies: http://www.goodrx.com/ Check for prescription drug assistance program eligibility at: https://www.pparx.org/
Does the patient have prescription drug insurance coverage?	Please ask patient for their prescription drug insurance card. If patient cannot provide the card, the information may be on file at their pharmacy.
Identify the patient's primary community pharmacy.	If patient uses multiple pharmacies, document the pharmacies and counsel patient on utilizing only one pharmacy to optimize drug therapy management.
Identify Potential Drug Therapy Problems	
Potential Problem	Guidance For Resolution
Is/are the drug(s) brand name only?	Can these prescriptions be substituted for generics under the NYS Generic Substitution Law?
Is/are the drugs(s) covered by insurance? Can the co-pays be determined? Is the patient able to afford their co-pays? Is/are the drugs(s) listed on the insurer's "Preferred Drug List" (PDL) or is a prior authorization (PA) required? Does the patient's insurance plan require step therapy?	Drug accessibility and affordability is a key component to adherence and should be considered when choosing therapy regimens. The following web links can be used to determine coverage, co-pay, and drug restrictions such as PA and step therapy before discharge to inform patient of the expected out-of-pocket costs. Some insurance plans will only cover certain drugs after an attempt has been made to treat with an alternative drug (step therapy). Contact the prescriber to initiate PA or select a preferred or more affordable drug. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York State Medicaid Managed Care: http://pbic.nysdoh.suny.edu/ New York State Medicaid: https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/nyrx_pdp_pdl.pdf Non-Medicare and Medicare: https://lookup.decisionresourcesgroup.com/ VA Formulary Search: http://www.pbm.va.gov/apps/VANationalFormulary/ <p>Patient should be informed if prescriptions will be a short-term (i.e. antibiotic) or long-term treatments that they will have to purchase regularly.</p> <p>Electronic PA streamlining assistance for prescribers and pharmacies: https://www.covermymeds.com/main/</p>
Is the drug regimen simple enough for the patient to understand?	Multiple dosing times per day, IM/IV administration, drug/dietary interactions, etc. increases difficulty for the patient to correctly administer the amount of drug needed or adhere to the therapy regimen.
Does the patient take 5 or more prescription drugs and/or over the counter and/or herbal products?	Has the patient received a medication therapy management comprehensive medication review at least annually? A targeted medication review for follow up and for identified problems quarterly? If no, refer patient to their community pharmacy or doctor.
Has patient received adequate education to remain adherent to the regimen?	Have discharge medication education opportunities been fully optimized for this patient?
Identify Potential Community Pharmacy Related Problems	
Potential Problem	Guidance for Resolution
Does the pharmacy stock the drug(s)?	If the drug is not in stock, can the pharmacy acquire it?
Is the pharmacy willing to carry the drug(s)?	Some pharmacies may not be permitted or willing to carry certain drugs. Ask if there will be any issues for the patient to get this drug moving forward.
Has/have the drug(s) recently been recalled?	Please visit the following for more information regarding drug recalls: http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/
Is/are the drug(s) currently in shortage?	Please visit the following site for more information regarding drug shortages: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/drugshortages/default.cfm