### Issue/Process: Discharge Process

**Status:** Approved  
**Action Requested:** NA  
**Reviewing Group:** Steering Committee

#### Issue/Background: Discharge Process

Once Computerized Physician Order Entry is implemented in the fall of 2010, physicians will enter all of their orders electronically from any location within the Virtua system or remotely. Currently, physicians write an order that the patient can be discharged and designate the disposition as to where the patient may be discharged to. If the patient is being discharged to home, Physicians additionally complete a Discharge Instruction Form, Medication Reconciliation and write new prescriptions (if appropriate). Nursing reviews and gives the patient these documents along with additional educational documentation based on the patient’s status and diagnosis. The patient is not removed from the bed and the encounter status changed to discharged by a Unit Secretary (nursing staff if no Unit Secretary is available) until the patient actually leaves.

If the patient is being discharged to another facility (Rehab, LTC, another healthcare organization), the physician also orders Case Management to assist with planning and finalizing arrangements. Physicians complete discharge documentation and Discharge Medication Reconciliation.

There is currently no functionality within Soarian CPOE Orders to support the documentation of patient instructions or transfer information. Physician Clinical Documentation will have functionality that can support discharge documentation and printing of patient instructions. Medication Reconciliation will be available from Soarian in 2011.

#### Recommendations

- Physicians enter order for Case Management as appropriate
- Physicians enter the Discharge Order in Soarian on the day of discharge
  - Order will indicate disposition i.e. home, nursing home, etc.
  - Unit staff will continue to perform the actual ADT transaction that removes the patient from the bed after the patient leaves
- Keep the current paper documentation process for instructions home and transfers until further functionality becomes available with Medication Reconciliation and Physician Clinical Documentation

#### Source of Recommendations

- CPOE Project Team
- Nursing Design Team 4/15/10
- Nursing Informatics Team 6/28/10

#### Response/Comments:

(Please reply “Approve”/“Reject”/“Schedule Conference Call”/“Red Flag” using voting buttons)