

Core competency 4: Discharge planning and health promotion

Competent nurse	Experienced/proficient nurse	Senior practitioner/expert nurse
Discharge planning - the interface between hospital and community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of the importance of early discharge planning • liaise with wards, pre-assessment departments and community staff, e.g. patients attending outpatient clinics for day surgery • understand the importance of good communication and collaboration when transferring patients to other departments and into the care of other professionals • be aware of the services and resources available in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use experience and knowledge to promote early discharge planning • use expertise from other professional groups and agencies • ensure that there is a continuity of care between home and hospital/clinic, and that appropriate aftercare is provided • provide information to other departments and services regarding outpatient care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use expertise to act as a resource and educator in developing others to plan for early discharge of patients • drive and develop the infrastructure in promoting early discharge planning, e.g. in the care of children, close collaboration with health visitors • use expertise and knowledge to develop ways of addressing non-attendance at clinic • develop a service that is responsive to local needs, national legislation and policy initiatives both within primary and secondary care.
Health promotion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware that this may be the single opportunity that health care professionals have to promote the health of the patient • provide health promotion in a way that is relevant to individual patient needs and empowers the patient • raise awareness of health and wellbeing, and the actions that people can take to address health promotion issues in the outpatient setting • access health promotion material from a wide range of resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt empowering health promotion strategies that can be used with clients in the wider community • use experience and knowledge to relate health promotion theory to clinical practice in the outpatient setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop, implement and evaluate strategies for health promotion with patients and the community • use expertise to collaborate with specialist practitioners to ensure that the team in outpatient services is providing current, evidence-based advice relevant to the problems presented, i.e. health promotion advice for a post-cardiac care patient.

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References and further reading

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