The Inpatient Geriatrics Consult Service: An overview and update

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Phases of Development

• Planning Phase
  – Conceptual Planning
    • What, why, who, where, when
    • Guidelines for Consults
  – Support Planning
    • Define Target Audience
    • Identify Team Members
    • Orders, Notes (Wiz and Star Panel)
  – Dissemination Planning

• Implementation Phase
  – Pre-Launch
  – Launch of Consult Service
  – Post-Launch
Conceptual Planning

- What
- Why
- Who
- Where
- When
Conceptual Planning

• WHAT?
  – A dedicated consult service to assist admitting services with care of the Elder Patient
Conceptual Planning

• WHY?
  – To help manage elder patients and assist in transitions of care
  – Assisting in the care and prevention of Geriatric syndromes in admitted patients
Conceptual Planning

• WHO?
  – Fellowship trained Geriatricians
    • Geriatrics Fellows
    • Internal Medicine Residents
    • Medical Students
  – Geriatric Nurse Practitioners
  – PT/OT/ST/Nutrition
  – Social Workers
Conceptual Planning

• WHERE?
  – Dedicated to Hospitalized patients
  – Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Conceptual Planning

• WHEN?
  – Planning phase August 2007-February 2008
  – Implementation phase March 2008
Conceptual Planning
Guidelines for Consults

• >65 y.o.
• Frail Elderly
• Geriatric Syndromes:
  – Cognitive impairment
  – Dementia & Delirium
  – Gait abnormality
  – Falls and fall prevention
  – Hip fracture
  – Osteoporosis
  – Urinary and Fecal incontinence
  – Polypharmacy
  – Weight loss or Malnutrition
  – Placement Assistance

• Elements of the Geriatric Assessment:
  – Physical Health – Medical problems
  – Mental Health – Cognitive, behavioral, and emotional
  – Social and Economic status – Support network, care givers
  – Functional Status–ADL’s, IADL’s
  – Environmental Characteristics – Home safety, services
  – Medication Review
  – Development and implementation of a Care Plan
Support Planning

• Define Target Audience
  – Identified and met with specific Hospital Services with which to partner:
    – Ortho/Trauma, Cardio-thoracic, Neurosurgery, and General Surgery
    – Medicine, Neurology, Urology
Support Planning

• Identify Team Members
  – Geriatricians
  – Geriatric Nurse Practitioners
  – Social Workers
  – PT, OT, ST
  – Nutrition
Support Planning

• Order in Wiz:
  • “If patient is 65 years or older and assistance is desired with Geriatric Syndromes; Frailty, Dementia, Delirium, Gait disorders, Falls, Depression, Placement issues, or Polypharmacy.”
  • For pre-operative clearance please click on the 'Go back...' link above and consult Medicine.
  • The Geriatrics Consult Service is available 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM Monday through Friday.

• Notes in Star Panel:
  • Geriatrics Consultation and assessment report
  • Geriatrics consult follow up progress note
Dissemination Planning

• Memorandum for Hospital Staff announcing the consult service
  – To be sent in March 2008

• Brochure to hand out to Hospital Floors, Nurses, Doctors, Staff
Implementation Phase

• Pre-Launch phase
  – Met and discussed with targeted Hospital Services Chiefs. Very supportive!
  – Give presentations on the capabilities of the Geriatrics Consult Service
  – Distribute printed materials
Implementation Phase

• Launch Phase
  – Geriatrics Consult Service “Goes Live”
    • March 2008
  – Order is posted in “Consult Wiz”
  – Consult notes posted in Star Panel
  – Continue to give presentations to increase recognition of Geriatrics Consult Service
Implementation Phase

• Post Launch Phase
  – Start Data collection
    • Reasons for consults
    • Actions
    • Length of Stay of Patients
  – Continue to develop Geriatrics Consult Service
Thank you