APRNs as Leaders in Complex Discharge Planning: Tools for Success
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During the 2019 Annual Convention

Summary: Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are well positioned to lead teams to identify patients at risk and engage interprofessional teams in comprehensive discharge planning. Interprofessional rounds led by APRNs provide engagement and planning with the focus of what community resources are available to support the care. APRN collaboration with home health resources and skilled nursing facility leaders provide a framework of support and resource sharing. A presentation and analysis of evidence-based tools and current research utilized for complex discharges and reductions in readmissions is provided. The roles of the clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner in relation to complex discharge planning are examined.

Nursing Implications:
- Interdisciplinary planning with information sharing contributes to success.
- Rounds are an effective means of communication.
- APRNs are positioned as key leaders for complex planning.
- Medication reconciliation and teaching help support successful discharges.

Key Takeaways:
- APRNs can be effective leaders for rounding structure.
- Effective rounds rely on good teamwork and communication.
- Knowing patient and family's health literacy and understanding help with customizing teaching plans.
- Partnership with Skilled Nursing Facilities support collaboration.
- Tools can support the process of risk assessment and planning.

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References:


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