



The Lost Art of the Care Plan

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Introduction

Care plans have existed for many years and are an integral part of care. Since the inception of the care plan, nurses and other disciplines often struggle with the challenge of making the care plan relevant, useful, individualized and family-centered.

Purpose

To revitalize the importance and reflect upon the role of the care plan in today's rapidly changing healthcare environment.

Language that Facilitates Collaboration

Introduce yourself by name and title or position.

"Do you prefer us to call you by your first name or your last name?"

"Here's what I'm thinking, but I'm wondering how this will work for you."

"Tell me how can I help you."

"Our institution usually does ____ this way. Would that work for you?"

"These are the things I plan to do for your child today. Would you like to do some of these activities?"

"What goals do you have for your child's care?"

"How does your child look to you today?"

"Do you have any questions or suggestions about your child's care?"

"This sounds important; help me understand your concern."

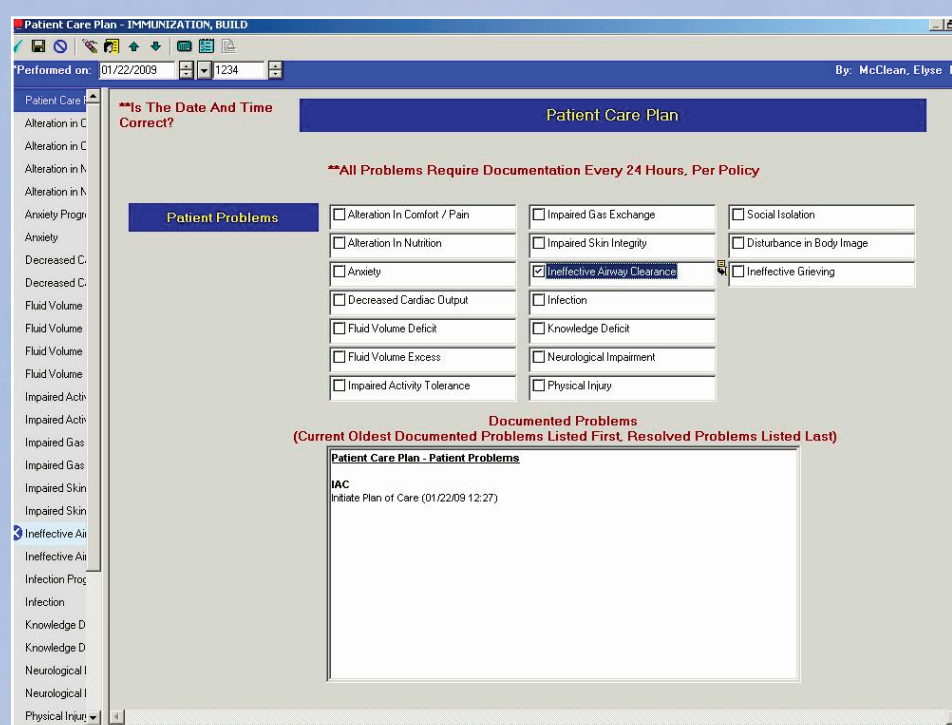
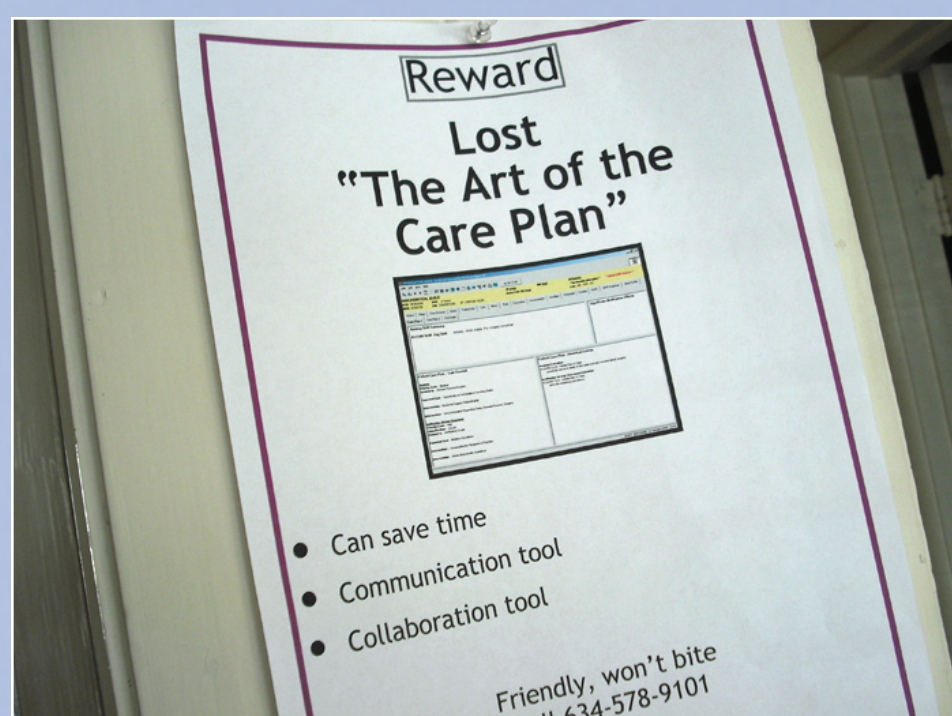
"Who would you like to have included in discussions about your child's care?"

"Let's talk about how much you want to be consulted."

Some of these examples are excerpted or modified from:
Fialka, J. (1994). You can make a difference in our lives. *Early On Michigan*, 3(4), 6-7, 11.
Curley, M. A. (1998). Effects of the nursing mutual participation model of care on parental stress in the pediatric intensive care unit. *Heart and Lung*, 17(6), 662-668.
Family Centered Care in Practice. (no date). British Columbia Children's Hospital.

Interventions

- Provide direction to initiate meaningful, family-centered, interdisciplinary, and individualized care plans.
- Use care plan examples and "Aha!" moments" to illustrate successful care planning
- Present case studies and dialogue on related events and care plans.



Challenges/Opportunities

- Utilize the care plan during report.
- Identify the care plan as a tool that can save time.
- Competing priorities, fast-paced environments.
- Mastering the art of collaboration with families and other disciplines.
- Identify the patient's and families needs and wants.
- Avoiding duplication of documentation.
- Driving force for providing direction for care.
- User friendly care plans.
- Seen as a valuable communication tool.
- Putting compassion in the care plan.
- Care plan is more than "check the box".
- Advocacy for patients and their families
- Share evidence that supports interventions



Implications for Practice

- Provide renewed insight into the importance of the care plan.
- The nurse will have the necessary tools to be successful at careplanning.
- Improve patient and family satisfaction.
- Measurable outcomes.
- Part of performance evaluations.

- Emphasize the pediatric patient safety aspect of the care plan.
- Create a culture that supports the care plan.
- Use the dry erase boards in patient rooms to support care planning.
- Identify what challenges are encountered by nurses and families in initiating, modifying and evaluating care plans.

