



New York State Association of
Health Care Providers, Inc.

Representing home care and related services since 1974.

99 Troy Road, Suite 200
East Greenbush, NY 12061
www.nyshcp.org
hcp@nyshcp.org
518/463-1118
fax 518/463-1606

Phyllis A. Wang, *President*

February 2005

Discharge Planning Workgroup

The Discharge Planning Workgroup, cosponsored by the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and State Office for the Aging (SOFA), aims at helping create a better discharge planning system for New York. Both DOH and SOFA are hoping to improve the current system which is somewhat disjointed and lacks continuity.

The members of this workgroup include representatives of hospitals, nursing homes, home care, the disabled and the elderly, among others. The workgroup has looked at current State regulations related to patient discharge and admission for hospitals, nursing homes and home care and will present recommendations as to how the regulations can be changed, enhanced and/or rewritten to better balance provider liability with an individual's right to choose. The workgroup identified successful practices and models used currently that are effective in encourage safe discharge planning and it plans to use this information as it prepares its recommendations.

Once compiled and put into a completed form, the recommendations of the workgroup are then to be sent to the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) for its information.

Overall, workgroup members agreed that consumers and their families need to have access to comprehensive information about discharge planning in order to make educated decisions about their care or care for their family member. Further, consumers need to be able to make informed decisions, but they also need access to qualified professionals when questions arise about how to best navigate the State's complicated long term care system.

DOH and SOFA are committed to continuing the workgroup and are looking at including others in the health care continuum to best address how to improve discharge planning across the board. The workgroup has developed informational checklists for both consumers and discharge planners, which will be used as tools to assist in the discharge planning process. The workgroup also made recommendations to DOH and SOFA as to how to change and improve the current discharge planning regulations as they relate to patient safety.

The workgroup is planning on meeting again in January 2005 to finalize the products it will submit to DOH and SOFA. Both State agencies recognize that the work being done by the group is one component in a larger initiative. It is their desire to include the work of this group in the recommendations to be made by the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) to the Governor and Legislature and to assist in the development of a Point of Entry into the State's long-term care system.

At this time, it unclear when MISCC will complete its report, nor has the State identified when (or if) it will issue an RFP for the Point of Entry system.

###