

# IN-HOME QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

## BEST PRACTICE: MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

### NURSE TRACK



Best Practice Intervention Packages were designed for use by any In-Home Provider Agency to support reducing avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits. Any In-Home care nurse/clinician can use these educational materials.

Best Practice Intervention Packages were designed to educate and create awareness of strategies and interventions to reduce avoidable hospitalizations and unnecessary emergency room visits.

# NURSE TRACK

This best practice intervention package is designed to introduce and/or reinforce the role of effective medication management in reducing avoidable acute care hospitalizations.

## Objectives

After completing the activities in the Nurse track of this Best Practice Intervention Package, *Medication Management*, the learner will be able to:

1. Recognize the positive correlation of an effective medication management program and the prevention of avoidable acute care hospitalizations.
2. Complete a more accurate, comprehensive medication assessment.
3. Identify five potential interventions to assist patients in improving medication management ability.

Complete the following activities:

- Read the medication management description.
- Complete the Medication Management... Be Safe and Take Nurse Enrichment Program.
- In place of the Nurse's post test, take the medications competency pre and post test from the Enrichment Program.

Disclaimer: Some of the information contained within this Best Practice Intervention Package may be more directed and intended for an acute care setting, or a higher level of care or skilled level of care setting such as those involved in Medicare. The practices, interventions and information contained are valuable resources to assist you in your knowledge and learning.

Disclaimer: All forms included are optional forms; each can be used as Tools, Templates or Guides for your agency and as you choose. Your individual agency can design or draft these forms to be specific to your own agency's needs and setting.

# Medication Management

Medication management, or mismanagement, can greatly influence adverse events, emergency care utilization and hospitalizations. There are many tools and resources to assist home health providers improve medication management. The focus of this intervention package is not on one specific tool, but instead, centers on nurse education through the **“Be Safe & Take” Nurse Enrichment Program**.

## Medication Management...the ACH Connection

Patients who have trouble taking their medications as prescribed not only may decline in the Outcome Based Quality Improvement (OBQI) measure of Management of Medications, but ineffective medication administration could:

-  Prevent the patient’s health conditions from improving
-  Cause the patient to become sicker and more unstable
-  Lead to significant side effects
-  Produce other symptoms that could affect a patient’s safety (Krulich 2005)

**Any of these can lead to an acute care hospitalization.**

## Medication Management... “Be Safe & Take” Nurse Enrichment Program

This educational program is available to improve knowledge of accurate assessment and clinical interventions to assist patients improve their medication management. You will learn more about improving medication assessment related to quality of care as well as additional universal resources. This program moves beyond traditional patient education for improving medication management to include medication reconciliation, simplification and a distinctive interdisciplinary approach that takes full advantage of all care providers, nurses and In-Home aides.

The “Be Safe & Take” Nurse Enrichment Program is available under the Medication Management Best Intervention Package.

Note: There is not a nurse track post-test. Instead, complete the medications competency.