

# Complex Discharge Guideline Checklist

## Hospital Level 3



## The current state of the issue

A person's discharge from a hospital setting is the point when inpatient acute clinical care is completed. When a person requires post-acute inpatient care in a lower acuity clinical setting the transition is often challenging. Coordination between the multiple people and systems in discharge planning is complex and is a vulnerable time for the patient, more so if they have ongoing health and social needs, or there is a lack of appropriate post-acute care sites. These complex hospital discharges often result in patients being medically ready for transfer from an acute care setting but without an appropriate accepting care setting, and limit the hospitals' ability to care for their community.

### Coordination & Communication

- ☐ Develop or adapt a complex discharge tool to facilitate discharge of patients to an appropriate care setting.
- ☐ Adapt tool to hospital workflow and train staff on workflow.
- ☐ Embed the adapted discharge planning tool into hospital electronic documentation systems.

### Information Exchange

- ☐ After adopting common definition, have a system to identify patients as complex discharge in registries/records using this definition as a minimum.
- ☐ After adopting common definition, collect data on both patients who meet complex patient discharge definition and have avoidable days.



### Care Team

- ☐ Identify a dedicated complex discharge team or complex discharge led to assist in complex patient discharges. The complex discharge team should include individuals who can support communication and coordination of necessary resources and information through the discharge process.

## Resources

- The Bree Report on Complex Discharge is meant to supplement these resources.
- Full Bree Report on Complex Discharge Health: <https://www.qualityhealth.org/bree/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/01/Bree-Complex-Discharge-Recommendations-FINAL-0124.pdf>
- AHA Private-Sector Hospital Discharge Tools: <https://www.aha.org/system/files/content/15/15dischargetools.pdf>
- AHRQ Re-Engineered Discharge (RED) Toolkit: <https://www.ahrq.gov/patient-safety/settings/hospital/red/toolkit/index.html>
- CARE Tool Discharge: <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/sites/default/files/hhs-guidance-documents/Supplemental-Discharge-CARE-Tool.pdf>

**Read the full Bree Report on Complex Discharge online by scanning the QR code:**



**Connect with the Bree Collaborative at  
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