

Point of Care Documentation – documenting at bedside at the time of the care being delivered

Inherent problems have been identified with paper-based clinical documentation, including records that were sometimes redundant, inaccurate or illegible. Clinicians often have to work with incomplete or inappropriate information, which affects staff communication and continuity of care. In answer to that, computers are appearing at hospital besides at an increasing rate across the country, allowing for more accurate, faster, and timely charting. This in turn leads to an increase in patient safety and reduction in errors.

Implementing the Electronic Health Care Record (EHR) is a key strategy for Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. With the implementation of the E.H.R., point of care documentation is the expectation to create a culture of patient safety.

Point of care documentation allows the patient information to become available immediately to all caregivers wherever they would like to access the information within the system, including at home for physicians, and across the continuum of care. There is increased patient safety by providing the right information at the right time. There is an improvement in the amount of time caregivers spend at the bedside, increasing patient satisfaction and reducing recovery time.

Benefits

- Accuracy
- Accessibility
- Comprehensiveness
- Legibility
- Safety
- Time and cost savings

How to accomplish the goal

Take the computer on wheels with you to the bedside and document:

- as you admit your patient
- as you perform assessments and do routine cares
- as you enter orders
- as you access other information to perform patient care, such as labs or reports

Do:

- Be mindful of the patient needs and perceptions while charting
- Develop the habit of point of care documentation

Avoid:

- Writing notes on patient care given and entering at a later time or at the end of your shift.
- Relying on memory for entry into the computer at a later time.

Only with point of care documentation can you meet the most important goal of patient safety!

Note: Not all applications are available at every site at this time. Please perform point of care documentation for those applications that are available to you at the time.

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