Policy and Procedure: 2.7.2 Department of Corrections Transfers

Standard of Practice:
The nurse implements nursing interventions designed to help the patient regain adaptive functioning and cope with the stressors presented by Department of Correction (DOC) incarceration.

Measurement Criteria:

1. The nurse collects objective and subjective data to assess the patient’s:
   - Understanding of behaviors which precipitated hospitalization.
   - Recognition of personal stressors associated with incarceration.
   - Ability to cope with the stressors of incarceration.
   - Understanding of criteria to be met for return to DOC.
   - Knowledge of resources available in DOC.
   - Readiness for return to the DOC.

2. The nurse notes actual or probable alterations in the patient’s bio/psycho/social status which impede return to the DOC. Nursing diagnoses common to DOC transfers are:
   - Alteration in Thought Process
   - Disturbance in Self-Concept
   - Hopelessness
   - Impaired Social Interaction
   - Ineffective Individual Coping
   - Knowledge Deficit
   - Noncompliance
   - Potential for Violence
   - Powerlessness
3. The nurse collaborates with the patient to identify needs and establish realistic goals such as to:

- Identify behaviors which precipitated hospitalization.
- Recognize personal stressors associated with incarceration.
- Develop effective coping skills.
- Understand criteria to be met for return to the DOC.
- Learn of resources available in the DOC.
- Demonstrate readiness for return to the DOC.
  1) comply with treatment;
  2) recognize maladaptive behaviors;
  3) cooperate with Unit rules and procedures;
  4) actively participate in activities and groups;
  5) utilize effective coping skills.

4. The nurse identifies and implements interventions which help the patient to:

- Understand and process the realities of his/her situation.
- Develop and utilize effective coping skills.
- Recognize and change behaviors that impede return to the DOC.
- Become aware of resources available in the DOC.
- Prepare for return to the DOC.

5. The nurse participates in liaison meetings with DOC to:

- Exchange information regarding patient behaviors and coping skills.
- Determine the feasibility of patient return to the DOC.
- Provide information which fosters continuity of care on return of the patient to the DOC.
- Identify alternative placements.

6. The nurse regularly evaluates the patient’s response to interventions and reviews goal attainment with the patient.

**Standard of Care:**

The patient is provided nursing care designed to assist him/her regain a level of functioning which permits return to the Department of Corrections.

**Measurement Criteria** - The patient:

- Identifies behaviors which precipitated hospitalization.
- Recognizes personal stressors presented by DOC incarceration.
- Develops and utilizes effective coping skills.
- Understands criteria to be met for return to the DOC.
- Is knowledgeable of resources available in the DOC.
- Demonstrates readiness for return to the DOC.