

There Is No Place Like Home

Sue Mileham RN,BSN

Background:

- The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted a study looking at 200 hospital transfers from LTC (Long Term Care Facilities) and found that 2/3 of them were potentially avoidable.
- UnityPoint Health - Fort Dodge began working on ways to prevent avoidable admissions from local LTC facilities.

Methods:

- Care Paths were created for Urinary Tract Infections, Congestive Heart Failure, Lower Respiratory Infection, and Pain Control
- Education was conducted by hospital RN and clinic ARNP to assist LTC staff to recognize conditions early that could potentially result in a hospital transfer.

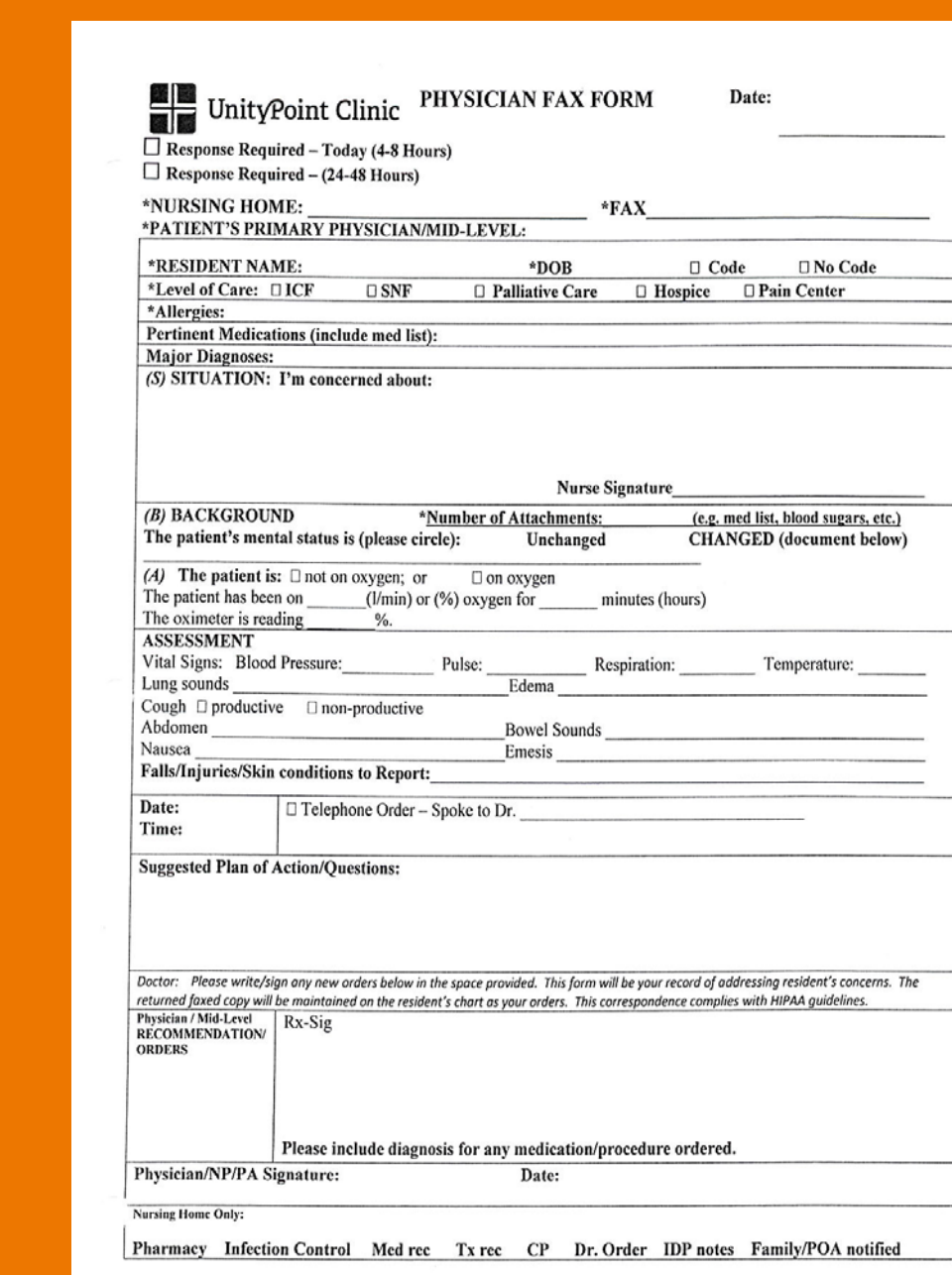
Introduction:

- The main purpose of this project was to find ways to prevent potentially avoidable hospital admissions from long term care facilities in our community.
- INTERACT stands for Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers
- Education using Interact Tools was provided to the long term care staff.
- The purpose of the education was to assist LTC staff to detect signs and symptoms early. Early detection allows the resident be treated without having to leave the environment that they call "HOME".
- SBAR was enhanced to promote standardized communication.
- Over the course of a year, UnityPoint Health - Fort Dodge staff went to the local LTC facilities and provided face to face education on the SBAR, Care Paths, and the Stop and Watch worksheet.

Conclusions/Results:

- Working collaboratively with the LTC facilities builds strong relationships.
- The Four LTC facilities created a universal weight monitoring policy for CHF patients.
- All of the LTC facilities in Fort Dodge now have standing orders which expedite diagnosis and treatment of urinary tract infections.
- When the hospital and the local LTC facilities work together the end result is better care for the patients in our community.
- We are working on creating a tracking system to monitor the effects of Care Path education, on the number of admits to the hospital from LTC facilities.

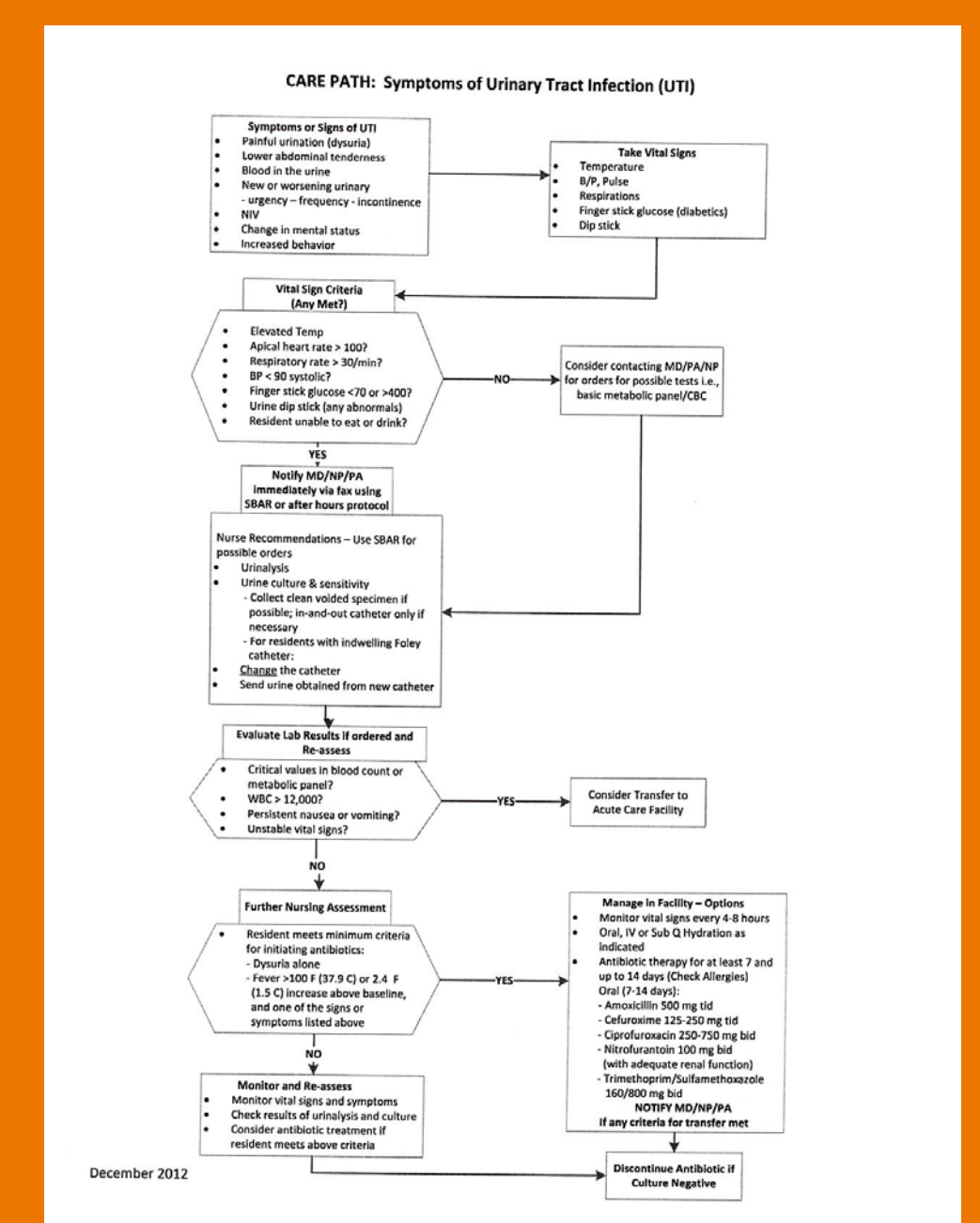
Examples of tools:



Physician Fax Form from UnityPoint Clinic. Includes fields for patient name, address, phone, and physician information. It also contains sections for 'New Signature' and 'Requested Plan of Action/Question'.

SBAR

Care Path – UTI



References:

INTERACT Program
<http://interact2.net>
 Mosby's Nursing Consult
 CMS Indicators of Pain

