Discharge Medications

1. Must be dictated or written in the Discharge Summary or final progress note (if admission less than 48 hours).

2. The Discharge Orders/Instructions form must also include a list of discharge medications. The dictated discharge medication list must match the list of drugs written on the discharge order/instruction form that is given to the patient.

3. There must also be a final written reconciliation of medications completed prior to discharge on the Medication Reconciliation Form to assure that all medications used by the patient prior to admission and during admission are reconciled for:
   - the appropriateness of continued use,
   - correct dosage,
   - correct route and
   - correct frequency

4. The list must include all medications, doses, route, and frequency. It is not acceptable to write “resume home meds”. The lists must include any over the counter and previous home meds that need to be continued.

5. Medicare and the Joint Commission perform periodic audits to validate whether our Discharge Order/Instructions is validated in the discharge summary or final progress note. Failure to document may result in financial penalties or Joint Commission deficiencies.

If you have any questions, please contact the Quality Management Department at 244-3209.