Directors' Forum: Community Outings

	ORG A	ORG B	ORG C
For those of you that have an inpatient rehab unit, do you offer community outings as part of your therapy program?	Yes	Yes	Yes
• What type of experiences are you able to offer on your "campus" (e.g., cafeteria ordering and payment, crossing a busy intersection, etc.)?	Cafeteria, gift shop, play area, garden, Koi Pond, putt putt golf, basketball, other outdoor play spaces.	As of now, patients only go as far as walking distance, to a city park or restaurant, using public restrooms etc. This includes navigating downtown sidewalks and intersections.	cafeteria ordering, cooking groups, outdoor mobility. Crossing a busy intersection would take the child off campus.
Do you ever leave the area that might be considered your "campus" (e.g., grocery stores, public transportation, etc.)	Yes one day a week we take an outing into the community. There is a criteria based process to who is ready and who attends the outing. We try to have all patients go on an outing before discharge.	Yes, they leave the hospital campus, but do not take any public or private transportation.	yes
If the patient might require rescue medication, does a nurse accompany the patient? If not, what is your plan?	Yes, we have a nurse on outings	A nurse does not accompany the patient. Our outings are done after all family education is completed, usually a day or two before discharge when the family is "rooming in." For emergencies we teach calling 911, and returning to the hospital if at anytime the patient seems to be declining or not tolerating the outing. They are accompanied by a therapist and Child Life Specialist.	Yes, a nurse accompanies the patient
Do you require that families also accompany the patients if you are able to leave your campus?	Yes, if it is age appropriate and parent education needs to occur.	Yes, and take along and use their home equipment if appropriate.	no
If No:			

What contributed to that decision?		The goal of our family outings are for the parents to have an experience caring for their child that would be similar to one after discharge. This allows us to teach and trouble shoot any unaddressed challenges that may arise during the outing.	Sometimes it's better to facilitate independence if a "hovering" parent isn't there; sometimes the parent isn't even staying at the hospital
In what other ways do you support reintegration into the community?		Vocational Rehab, XXXX, XXXXXX	Rec therapy introduces a variety of adapted sports and other organizations in their community they might be interested in. We may take them to the airport to practice navigating this area for their future trip home. If their home is within a 60-90 minute radius we may make a home visit with them to assess the accessibility of their home and help problem solve for discharge.
Do you have a policy or written criteria, outlining candidacy for community outings? What factors do you consider?	Yes, we have a system policy and a department policy as well. It is important for you and your hospital to decide on the risk and scope you need to take with an outing. We have been doing this for over 30 years. We have a hardwired practice. If this is new for you, I would advise to have your Medical Director, Nurse Leader, Risk Management Dept and your therapy team come together to plan and design your program. A therapeutic recreational therapist is integral in making this process a success.	Yes. Safety, family education, patient diagnosis, and goals of outing.	Medically stable, nurse available if medications needed or cathing required and a family member is not capable or attending the outing. The outing needs to be therapeutic in nature. Community outings are typically led by the rec therapy dept. A rehab staff member only goes if we have the staffing for it and the goals are appropriate for rehab to attend (ie: working on transfers, w/c propulsion, ambulation in the community etc).
Do you require that the families sign a consent or "permission slip"?	Yes, we have a special consent for outings.	Yes, they sign a written order also signed by MD.	This might be verbal consent by phone if family not present on site.

	ORG D	ORG E	ORG F
For those of you that have an inpatient rehab unit, do you offer community outings as part of your therapy program? If Yes:	yes	Yes	yes
 What type of experiences are you able to offer on your "campus" (e.g., cafeteria ordering and payment, crossing a busy intersection, etc.)? 	The examples you listed plus using public bathroom within the hospital, walk on sidewalks/unlevel terrain, cafeteria, and the grassy area/park outside the hospital.	On campus, we have a cafeteria, starbucks, little "park" area; no intersections, just a parking lot.	cafeteria, playground, and gift shop
Do you ever leave the area that might be considered your "campus" (e.g., grocery stores, public transportation, etc.)	Yes. We have a rehab shuttle bus that we use to transport patients into the community.	Yes, we leave the campus for therapeutic outings- all sorts of places depending on goals and needs of child- indoor climbing place or trampoline park, bowling, restaurants, playgrounds and parks, walking trails, grocery stores, malls, etc.	Yes. Public transport or walk if possible, may drive in van. Movies, science museum, children's museum, mall, etc.
If the patient might require rescue medication, does a nurse accompany the patient? If not, what is your plan?	Yes and respiratory if the patient has a ventilator	Yes, nursing will go with us if medication may be needed.	A nurse may accompany if it is medically necessary. This is a difficult process though so does not occur regularly. If a parent is trained in medical cares and they will be doing cares at home, the parent will accompany. The patient wears a lanyard with medical information around their neck, hidden under their shirt. This came from CARF.
Do you require that families also accompany the patients if you are able to leave your campus?	No	Families are not always required, it depends on the goals/needs of the child and family. Frequently, education is done with families on these outings.	No, but they may accompany if it's appropriate
If No:What contributed to that decision?			

 In what other ways do you support reintegration into the community? Do you have a policy or written criteria, outlining candidacy for community outings? What factors do you consider? 	Medical, functional and safety factors Typical discharge environment	Yes Goals, behavior	We have one guideline that states TR will take appropriate rehab patients on community retraining sessions. This guideline address access to outdoor spaces. Tolerance to upright, medical stability, approval by physician with an order. Close to functioning level we will be discharging them home at.
Do you require that the families sign a consent or "permission slip"?	Yes, plus a medical order from physician to say they are medically cleared	Yes Here is the verbiage from our parent consent/permission slip: Community Outings are an intricate part of patient's therapy during their admission. During a patient's admission, therapists may plan community outings with your son/daughter. These outings may consist of going to local malls, restaurants, parks, arcades, grocery stores, etc. The community outings are goal oriented and therapists are able to observe your child in a "real" life environment, thus making the transition back into the community as easy as possible. The hospital provides transportation through our transportation company or other contract companies. The hospital also provides the financial funds required for your child to participate in these outings. Parents are not responsible for any part of the community outing. Parents and other family members are always	Yes a pass release form is filled out and signed by the parent and a hospital staff witness.

welcome to participate in the
community outings.
Yes, I give consent for my child
to participate in community outings.
I understand they are a necessary
part of my child's therapy and
progress. I also understand that I will
always be informed of my child's
planned community outings by a
communication sheet that will be
hung in my child's hospital room.
No, I do not give consent for my
child to participate in community
outings at this time. However, if the
therapist would like to speak with me
directly about a specific outing, I may
give consent at that time.
No, I do not want my child to
leave the hospital grounds.