

## Communication with Physician about Medication Issues/Discrepancies during Reconciliation/Review

**Situation:**

- Dr. (name), this is (your name, discipline) from (name of your home health agency).
- I am calling about (patient's name), whose medication reconciliation indicates: (Examples include:)
  - ♦ serious medication discrepancies.
  - ♦ patient has symptoms indicating possible medication adverse effect.
  - ♦ current medications are not adequately controlling patient's (pain, BP, infection, etc.)
  - ♦ patient not taking medication due to cost of medication.

**Background:**

- Patient's age \_\_\_\_\_
- Reason admitted to home care \_\_\_\_\_ Date admitted \_\_\_\_\_
- Diagnoses related to medication discrepancies/issues: \_\_\_\_\_

**Assessment:** (Only report abnormal/pertinent data)

- During the admission medication reconciliation, I found the following discrepancies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- Patient has symptoms that could be associated with the medication regime:
  - Dizziness, lightheadedness       Visual changes       Ringing in ears
  - Insomnia       Lethargy       Difficulty breathing
  - Nausea/anorexia       Constipation       Diarrhea
  - Itching       Difficulty urinating       Urinary frequency
  - Other pertinent symptoms \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Physical assessment:
  - ♦ Vital signs: Pulse \_\_\_\_\_ RR \_\_\_\_\_ BP \_\_\_\_\_ Orthostatic BP \_\_\_\_\_
  - ♦ O2 sat \_\_\_\_\_ Blood glucose: \_\_\_\_\_ Edema/swelling \_\_\_\_\_
  - ♦ Neuro:  Altered mental status       Balance problem       Tremors
  - ♦ Skin:  Rash       Hives       Excessive bruising
  - ♦ GI:  Dry mouth       Vomiting       Tarry stools
  - ♦ Other pertinent data: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Analysis:
  - Ineffective drug therapy       Adverse effect       Side effect
  - Reconciliation discrepancies       Drug interaction       Duplicate therapy
  - Non-adherence due to:       Cost       Confusion
  - Complexity of meds       Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendation:** Examples include:

- Since these medication discrepancies could jeopardize the patient's safety, could you return the Medication Profile I have faxed to you, with your clarifications and revisions, by 10 am tomorrow.
- Should the dose of the (medication name) be decreased or discontinued?
- I recommend we ask the pharmacist to review the patient's medication list for recommendations on how the medication regime can be simplified.