



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.

Director

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

Policy & Procedure Title:		Care Companion Orientation Training Program	
Category:	300-399 Operation Policy	Policy No.:	310.501
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DHS Division/Unit of Origin:	DHS Office of Nursing Affairs		
Policy Contact – Employee Name, Title and DHS Division:			
Susan Currin, RN., Chief Nursing Officer, Office of Nursing Affairs			
Contact Phone Number(s):	(213) 288-7702		
Distribution: DHS-wide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If not DHS-wide, other distribution:	

PURPOSE:

The DHS Care Companion Orientation Program (CCOP) is designed to provide nursing staff with an orientation to the Department of Health Services (DHS) Care Companion (CC) Program.

Program content is consistent with DHS Policy No. 310.500 DHS Care Companion Program.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Department of Health Services (DHS) to provide safe and therapeutic observation of patients in accordance with patient needs and standards of quality patient care. DHS hospitals and facilities will utilize appropriately trained care companions when necessary to provide observation for patients who may require protective supervision and interventions during specified periods of time to ensure their safety.

1. Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN), Nursing Attendants (NA), Rehabilitation Associates (RA), and Student Nurse Workers (SNW) will be able to identify behaviors which render a patient a candidate for continuous supervision.
2. The RN will be readied to implement the *Guideline to Determine Care Companion Need* (Attachment A) algorithm, initiate the request process, assign identified Care Companion, and complete the discontinuation process when the patient no longer requires Care Companion supervision.

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services is to ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

Revision/Review Dates: 1/11/2018 1/1/2019
 Department Head/Designee Approval:

3. Trained staff will successfully apply decision-making and critical thinking skills in the provision of safe care for at risk patients in diverse inpatient settings.
4. Nursing Attendants, SNWs, and RAs will be evaluated for demonstrated competency upon hire and annually during DHS Core Competency testing.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this program, the participant will be able to:

1. Define the role of a Care Companion
2. Explain each step of the request process
3. Describe 5 Care Companion responsibilities
4. Recall 2 primary RN responsibilities
5. Identify 4 Care Companion documentation requirements
6. List 4 behaviors which place a patient at an increased safety risk

PRE-REQUISITES: None

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Didactic:

1. Completion of role appropriate program modules. Licensed staff will complete modules three and four. Unlicensed staff will complete modules one, two, and four.
 - a. Module One - Introduction and Psychiatric Disorders
 - b. Module Two – Neurological Disorders
 - c. Module Three – Need Identification and Assessment
 - d. Module Four – Care Companion Responsibilities, Education, Outcome Measures

2. Case Studies

Clinical/Mentorship:

1. Initial evaluation of competency
 - a. Review of "Nursing Staff Competency Elements"
 - b. Completion of Care Companion Post Test
Key Point: Minimal score of 80% required for competency
 - c. "Care Companion Competency Observation Tool" (Attachment B)
Key Point: Minimal score of 80% required for competency
Key Point: Evaluation of competency will be completed by a competent RN
 - d. Remediation will be provided to staff who do not successfully demonstrate competency

- 2 Annual evaluation of continued competency will be documented during the annual DHS Core Competency testing

ATTACHMENTS/FORMS:

Guide to Determine Care Companion Need (Attachment A)
Care Companion Competency Observation Tool (Attachment B)

REFERENCE(S)/AUTHORITY:

DHS Policy 310.500 DHS Care Companion Program

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center (RLANRC) Administrative Policy and Procedure B868, Care Companion Program