Planning for Your Hospital Stay

Thinking it through

When you are planning for a hospital stay, it is important to think through all of the thoughts and questions that you and your family may have. This booklet gives you a place to write down your ideas, questions, and comments. Use it in the way that is best for you and your family.

My doctor’s name is:

________________________________________

Phone number:

________________________________________
Our hospital discharge time is 11:00 a.m.

Write the answers to your health care questions in this folder.

You may want to write during your clinic visit or soon after, while your memory is fresh.

Condition
What is the exact name of my condition?
Are there other names for my condition?

Your Doctor’s Plan for You
What will happen in the hospital?

What kind of treatments or procedures will be needed?
What are my options for treatment? What are the risks or complications of these treatments or procedures?

How long will I be in the hospital?

When can I expect to go home or leave the hospital?

What You Will Need for Your Hospital Stay

• Your health insurance card and your pharmacy or drug benefit card, if different.

• If you have Medicare Insurance and will be filling your prescriptions here, please bring a method of payment.

• Any legal documents related to your health (such as a Living Will, and/or an Advanced Directive).

• The names of any medications you take regularly and the instructions for how to take them.

• Your glasses, hearing aids, and dentures, if applicable, and any other health aids that you may have.

• Any important phone numbers that you will need during your stay with us.

• Your questions, concerns, and ideas for your doctor and nurses and other health care providers.

Going Home

• Our discharge time is 11:00 a.m., so we will do our best to have you ready to go by that time. Note that your actual discharge may be later depending on services you might need.

Be sure to tell your provider if you have a Living Will. These are sometimes called Advanced Directives. They tell providers about your wishes for end-of-life treatment or decision making if you are unable to make decisions for yourself. Ask for UWMC’s handout on this topic to learn more.

The UWMC patient education handout “Be Involved in Your Health Care” has some suggestions about questions to ask your doctor. Ask your health care provider for a copy.