

**Challenges Facing Home Care Respiratory Therapists**

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**Health Care Changes**

- President Obama's budget for health care reform.
- Continued reduction in reimbursement for health care services.
- Competitive bidding in DME



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**The Medical Home.....**

- Broadly defined as care that is "accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and effective"
- This really is how  e is today.....

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### Home Care Respiratory Therapist

- Whether transitioning a patient from hospital to home, or invited into their home for the first time .....
- The goals are all the same
- Allowing the patient to safely stay in their home with continuance of prescribed care of treatment / therapy.



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### Clinical Pathway Management

- Standardization of care processes.
  - Reduces variability
  - Improves outcomes
  - Promotes organized and efficient patient care.



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### Basic Needs in the Home

- Home assessment...just because the intention is there to care for someone, doesn't mean the physical environment is conducive.
- Basic Needs.
  - Water
  - Electricity
  - Heat / AC
  - Phone



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### Ongoing Care in the home

- Skilled assessments within the clinical pathway that address changes in patient acuity.
- Patient / Family / Caregiver training, education.
- Home Care Respiratory Therapist are the eyes and ears for the patients medical provider.



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### Clinical Outcomes / Benchmarks

- Reduce hospitalization
- Reduce re-admissions (within 30 days)



- Compliance with prescribed medical plan of care
  - Oxygen
  - PAP therapy
- Enhanced quality of life

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**Skills for the RT who work in Home Care**

- Proactive
- Trouble-Shooting
- Communication
- Critical Care
- Case Management/  
Social Work
- Critical Thinking
- Strong Stomach
- Big Heart



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