Hi guys, I thought it would be nice to start an ongoing thread to just post/vent about your usual day. With a lot of entries, it can sort of serve to show nurses who are thinking about getting into Home Health what it is really like on the good days and the bad.

Not a bad day today... started back per diem today.

6 cases, all in the same township. Not my usual zip codes though, so I did waste some time and scheduled visits akimbo, instead of in a line like I usually try to do.

8:00am :6 pt's, one needed labs/medicare/had to drop off at nearby hospital, one needed a urine c+s/aetna/had to use quest lab...not local, but one in my neighborhood, so I'll take this on my way home. One prefill/and recert oasis, a discharge, a HHA sup, and one regular CP check. Did quick review, got all lab supplies, mapped a route, made my calls, route goes to hell b/c of this and that.

First lady, very sweet elderly woman, just d/c w pleural effusions sec to CHF. Also has bad COPD. I got her labs on first stick (w butterfly d/t horrendously fragile skin and bruising sec steroids), reviewed her meds, VS stable, edema but no change. Off I go.

Can't drop labs yet b/c I have to first get to next home by 10:30 or no one can let me in. This guy is mildly retarded and we prefill his mediplanner weekly. Get there, he hasn't taken several evening doses of meds. I prefill meds, call in refills...snag..RPh tells me the insulin pen is backordered by manufacturer. We will have to prefill syringes, of course pt has no vials or syringes in home. Call endo and lv mssg re pls give pt Rx for vials and syringes d/t shortage. Check sugar (132) and VS, and off I go.

Stop and hospital drop labs, grab a sprite and pop tarts from the vending machine (thought I'd be in my own neck of the woods and could stop at my house for a bowl of cereal, starving now)
Typical day for a home Health Nurse Page

Next pt, had to get there before 1 or no one will let me in. This poor woman w MS is STILL on the commode since when I called at about 9:15! She is upset b/c her aide will leave at 1:00 and she hasn't had her BM. She doesn't want MOM or enema, since she will be alone and is afraid to risk having to lay in stool until eve aide comes, if they come. Usual bowel routine is q M-W-F, didn't go on Monday, but belly is nice and soft, + flatus, + BS. I advise her to try more fruit, and if no success repeat her suppos tomorrow. She does admit she didn't eat as much as usual on the weekend. Her aide said when she gave the sup this am, there was no stool felt in the rectum as far as she could reach. (Wow, this aide is a good one!!) Then I check her S-P tube site, looks clean, she was worried, Instructed her on S+S infection, got the UA/C+S from the S-P Tube, VS WNL, and off I go

Next, LOL who has CA, family doesn't want her to know. I get there, she looks good, hubby is cute, says "Boy, it's cold out there." We have a mini chat about yes how cold it is, only to have him do it again 3 more times!! (A tad forgetful I am picking up!) Dtr arrives midway into vs, says doc wants labs repeated later this week. Apparently she was on spiro lactone bid, another doc inc it to qid, her K went off the scale, they dec the spiro back to bid, and K is high norm so he just wants one more set to be sure. Call the doc, confirm the order (Uh doc, we can't take orders from family members!) VS WNL, review all meds, advise we will be back thursday for labs. off I go

Next, funniest LOL, she answers door in a robe and damp hair, her HHA just left and she feels clean and great. But she is all upset b/c she can't get the calculator to figure right. She asks me to double check her, which I did, and we figured out what happened, and she felt better. She was quite euphoric and agreeable, agreeing "Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!" I was starting to wonder if she was flaky, but she knew to call her dtr, how to balance her checkbook, and was taking her meds correctly. Then she pulls out five Rx dated 1-21-03, two are new meds, but prn types. I asked her why she didn't fill them yet, she says, My dtr has been sick. Having been just sick as a dog myself, I asked her what pharm she used, and for some reason she uses one in my neighborhood so I offered to drop it off, b/c I know they deliver. She is so relived, she gives me a big hug. Off I go

Last vs, still no real food and I am famished. The discharge. Cute LOL, very ambulatory, very sharp. Review s+s she needs to report for emergencies, meds actions, s/e, and VS stable, she will still have PT, so the discharge paperwork won't be so bad.

2:15pm. Back to my township, drop wee wee at quest labs, drop off Rx at the pharm, get to my house. Reheat leftover Chinese and get a huge glass of water. My bones are aching from being in and out of the cold so much.

Worked on paperwork until 4:45, finished time sheet. End of story. I'll take charts back in tomorrow since I am working. Tomorrow it is supposed to snow, which means a lot of people will call out sick. I was supposed to do 3 new admits, but will probably get stuck w seven revisits b/c we will have to triage for call-outs and snow.

Pretty routine kind of day today.

Anyone else want to share??

**A Day in the Life of a Public Health Nurse**

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