



## **SB1152: HOSPITAL PATIENT DISCHARGE PROCESS: HOMELESS PATIENTS FACT SHEET**

**[signed into law 9/30/2018 – law goes into effect July 1, 2019]**

### **SB 1152 REQUIRES:**

- Hospitals include within its hospital discharge policy a written homeless patient discharge planning policy and process;
- a hospital to inquire about a patient's housing status during the discharge planning process. Housing status may not be used to discriminate against a patient or prevent medically necessary care or hospital admission;
- The policy shall require an individual discharge plan for a homeless patient that helps prepare the homeless patient for return to the community by connecting him or her with available community resources, treatment, shelter, and other supportive services. The discharge planning shall be guided by the best interests of the homeless patient, his or her physical and mental condition, and the homeless patient's preferences for placement. The homeless patient shall be informed of available placement options;
- Unless the homeless patient is being transferred to another licensed health facility, the policy shall require the hospital to identify a post discharge destination for the homeless patient as follows, with priority given to identifying a sheltered destination with supportive services:
  - ✓ A social services agency, nonprofit social services provider, or governmental service provider that has agreed to accept the homeless patient, if he or she has agreed to the placement; the hospital shall provide potential receiving agencies or providers written or electronic information about the homeless patient's known post hospital health and behavioral health care needs and shall document the name of the person at the agency or provider who agreed to accept the homeless patient;
  - ✓ The homeless patient's residence, which means the location identified to the hospital by the homeless patient as his or her principal dwelling place;
  - ✓ An alternative destination, as indicated by the homeless patient pursuant to the discharge planning process. The hospital shall document the destination indicated by the homeless patient or his or her representative.
- Information regarding discharge or transfer be provided to the homeless patient in a culturally competent manner and in a language that is understood by the homeless patient;
- The hospital shall document all of the following prior to discharging a homeless patient:
  - ✓ The treating physician has determined the homeless patient's clinical stability for discharge, including, but not limited to, an assessment as to whether the patient is alert and oriented to person, place, and time, and the physician or designee has communicated post discharge medical needs to the homeless patient
  - ✓ homeless patient has been offered a meal, unless medically indicated otherwise
  - ✓ If the homeless patient's clothing is inadequate, the hospital shall offer the homeless patient weather-appropriate clothing.
  - ✓ homeless patient has been referred to a source of follow-up care, if medically necessary.
  - ✓ homeless patient has been provided with a prescription, if needed, and, for a hospital with an onsite pharmacy licensed and staffed to dispense outpatient medication, an appropriate supply of all necessary medication, if available
  - ✓ homeless patient has been offered or referred to screening for infectious disease common to the region, as determined by the local health department.
  - ✓ homeless patient has been offered vaccinations appropriate to the homeless patient's presenting medical condition.

**1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833  
916-993-7708 [www.srceh.org](http://www.srceh.org)**

- ✓ The treating physician has provided a medical screening examination and evaluation. If the treating physician determines that the results of the medical screening examination and evaluation indicate that follow-up behavioral health care is needed, the homeless patient shall be treated or referred to an appropriate provider. The hospital shall make a good faith effort to contact one of the following, if applicable:
  - homeless patient's health plan, if the homeless patient is enrolled in a health plan.
  - homeless patient's primary care provider, if the patient has identified one.
  - Another appropriate provider, including, but not limited to, the coordinated entry system.
- ✓ The homeless patient has been screened for, and provided assistance to enroll in, any affordable health insurance coverage for which he or she is eligible.
- ✓ The hospital has offered the homeless patient transportation after discharge to the destination identified above