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| Massachusetts CARE ActFact Sheet |
| What is the CARE ACT?The CARE Act stands for Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act. This new Massachusetts law allows a patient over the age of 18 who has been admitted as an inpatient at an acute hospital to give permission for a hospital to provide medical information to a designated caregiver. There are three main parts to the law. |
| Why is the CARE ACT important? The CARE act makes it easier for caregivers to get the information they need and be better prepared to help care for their family or friend |
| Frequently Asked Questions1. ***Does a patient have to choose a caregiver?*** Patients are not required to pick a caregiver.
2. ***What happens if a patient changes their mind and wants to choose a caregiver, cancel a caregiver, or choose a different caregiver?*** A patient has the right to change their caregiver at any time up until the point of discharge or transfer. Patients should notify a member of their care team in order to request a change.
3. ***What types of patient Information can be provided to a caregiver?*** Information can include discharge plans or detailed medical information about the patient’s specific health condition(s). The type of information shared will be based on what the patient has authorized the hospital to release to a caregiver. A patient is not required toshare their health condition or discharge plan provided to a caregiver, and should talk to their care team about what they want to share with the caregiver.
4. ***What aftercare information can a caregiver expect to receive?*** Caregivers can expect to receive a copy of the patient’s discharge plan (if approved by the patient) as well as the following;
	* General demonstration of known aftercare tasks;
	* Available community resources and long term care supports, as needed and appropriate; and
	* Who to contact at the hospital for questions after discharge about the basic medical tasks discussed at discharge.
5. ***What happens if a care team is unable to reach a caregiver?*** A hospital should not delay in discharging or transferring a patient for clinical reasons or if they are not reasonably able to contact the caregiver, provide notice to the caregiver, or provide information to a caregiver.
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