Preventing hospital readmissions

Tips to reduce the chances of an unplanned readmission

**Post Discharge**

- **Follow-up Appointments**
  Keep open appointments so your office can see patients within 7 days.

- **Medication Management**
  Ask your patient to bring all medications they were taking pre-hospitalization and any new ones they are supposed to be taking after discharge (including over-the-counter, pills, liquids, topicals, vitamins and supplements).

- **Discharge Summary**
  Obtain the discharge summary (or ask the patient to bring a copy) to help with continuity of care.

**During the Visit**

- **Medications**
  Reconcile medications and ask the patient and/or caregiver to describe the new medication regimen back to you. Document their understanding of the medication plan.

- **Labs/Tests**
  Address all follow-up tests and lab results ordered prior to discharge, and provide appropriate interventions as needed.

**Next Steps**

- **Confirm the Ws**
  The patient should know with whom, when, why and what happens next for any upcoming appointments.

- **Visit Summary**
  Provide a copy of the visit summary to the patient to review later. Include new medications, test results, future appointments with specialists and any scheduled tests.

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