Establish the expected time and date of discharge to identify potential problems which may impact on the patient’s discharge. Provide details to the patient, their family and carer.

• Establish Date and time of discharge

Carer arrangements
• Determine if the patient has a carer (e.g. family member, friend, neighbour, other). Establish the carer’s capability and willingness to assist.
• Involve the carer throughout the discharge planning process.

Mobility and independence
• Determine if the patient has a carer (e.g. family member, friend, neighbour, other). Establish the carer’s capability and willingness to assist.
• Involve the carer throughout the discharge planning process.

Community Nursing
• Confirm with patient/family/carer whether or not community nursing services are already in place.
• Forward a timely referral and discharge plan, with appropriate clinical information, to the community nursing agency.

Mobility and independence
• If there are concerns regarding post-discharge independence or safety, consult an Occupational Therapist or other relevant allied health professional e.g. Physiotherapist, Respiratory Physician, Podiatrist, Dietician, Speech Pathologist.
• Discuss the supply of aids and appliances, and the need for any home modifications.
• Assist with providing or arranging instruction on the use of aids or appliances as necessary.

Medications
• Arrange sufficient quantities of medication to last until the next consultation.
• Check that the patient understands the purpose, dosage, frequency and side-effects of their medication, and that no confusion exists between past and present medications.

Follow up appointments
• Arrange all necessary appointments.
• Provide the patient or carer with written details of the appointments. Ensure relevant clinical information in writing is provided to health professionals.

Special instructions and Discharge Summary
• Discuss expected recovery path and confirm understanding. Provide any necessary or special instructions in writing.
• Arrange the issue of a discharge summary to the patient’s GP and referring doctor at the time of discharge, with a copy given to the patient / carer.

Travel arrangements
• Organise transport home and to follow-up appointments as early as possible.
• Otherwise the patient may have the option of claiming reimbursement of travel expenses from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Nutrition
• Discuss future nutritional needs and organise services to meet these if necessary.

Patient’s belongings
• Ensure the patient takes with them any private x-rays, scans, medical documents, medicines as well as all personal belongings.