Compliance Spotlight: F0655 – Baseline Care Plan

Deficiency: Failure to share a resident's initial care plan within 48 hours of admission

Welcome to our first Compliance Spotlight. Each month, we highlight a recent deficiency cited in Maryland nursing homes, explain the regulation behind it, and share a quick check you can complete today to ensure your team isn't at risk for the same issue. Our goal is to provide you with practical, time-saving tools that not only reduce survey risk but also improve resident safety and care quality. We know the pressures you face, and we want to be a partner in helping your team succeed.

📌 What the Regulation Requires

• Facilities must develop and implement a Baseline Care Plan (BCP) within 48 hours of admission.
• The BCP must include enough detail to provide safe and person-centered care immediately upon admission.
• A copy of the BCP must be provided to the resident or their responsible party within 48 hours.

⚠️ The Cited Case (Baltimore, MD – March 2025)

• A resident admitted with a history of swallowing concerns had no initial care information shared.
• Within days, the resident was hospitalized for an acute subdural hematoma.
• Review showed a BCP was created, but no evidence it was ever shared with the resident/family.
• Surveyors cited F0655: Minimal harm / potential for actual harm.

Excerpt from Actual CMS-2567 (Deficiency Report):

For information on the nursing home's plan to correct this deficiency, please contact the nursing home or the state survey agency.	
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (Each deficiency must be preceded by full regulatory or LSC identifying information)
F 0655 Level of Harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	Create and put into place a plan for meeting the resident's most immediate needs within 48 hours of being admitted **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** 45733 Based on interview and record review, it was determined that the facility failed to inform residents of a summary of the resident's initial Baseline Care Plan (BCP) within 48 hours of the admission nor to provide a copy of initial instructions for effective and person-centered care. This was found to be evident for 1 (Resident #217) out of 3 residents for new admissions reviewed. The findings include: The Baseline Care Plan (BCP) must be developed and implemented within 48 hours of admission and needs to include the necessary healthcare information to properly care for the resident immediately upon admission to reduce the likelihood of a negative outcome shortly after admission and to provide immediate residents' needs. Interview, on 03/25/25 at 10:36 AM, Resident #217 stated that there was no initial care information shared which he/she was concerned about the diet and swallowing plan of care. Record Review, on 03/26/25 at 12:01 PM, revealed that this resident was hospitalized this March 2025 for acute subdural hematoma and was admitted to the facility on [DATE]. Further record review found that the care plan was entered, however, no medical record contained evidence that the BCP summary was shared or given to the resident. During an interview, on 3/26/25 at 12:19 PM, Social Worker Director Staff #6 revealed that the assigned Social Worker Staff # 21 was a new hire, the only note from her was on 3/25/25 regarding the discharge planning with Resident #217. Staff #6 admitted that BCP was not presented to this resident as a facility's deficiency practice. Further meeting with the Director of Nursing and sharing the above findings, she expected that the facility staff would need to have BCP shared within 48 hours of the admission and a copy given to the new residents.

✅ 5-Minute Social Worker Check (Today)

1. Pull the last 3 admissions in your caseload.
2. Verify that:
   - A Baseline Care Plan was developed within 48 hours.
   - A copy was given to the resident or family (signature, dated acknowledgment, or note in the record).
3. If no evidence, fix immediately: document and provide copy now.
4. Educate your team — don't assume nursing or admissions gave the plan.

👉 Takeaway: **Missing this simple handoff puts your facility at real survey risk. Double-check today to protect your team and your residents.**

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