

Elaine Sakala

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Willing to relocate to: New Mexico
Authorized to work in the US for any employer

Work Experience

Utilization Review Nurse

Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center - Alamogordo, NM
April 2018 to Present

I was started as case management but quickly changed the position to Utilization Review Nurse. I track and trend insurance status, sending clinical and tracking authorization, reviews for admission status, prepare and present reports for Utilization Management Committee. I review all admissions for correct admission status. I work with and educate Providers regarding admission status and insurance requirements. I do reviews on insurance denials. I work closely with finance, HIM and CDI's.

Administrator

Sierra Home Health and Hospice - Truth or Consequences, NM
January 2018 to April 2018

I was hired as the Administrator but found we had different goals.

Infection Preventionist, Risk Specialist and Utilization Review Nurse

Delta County Memorial Hospital
2009 to 2018

As the Infection Preventionist I am responsible for development and implementation of infection control measures. I mitigate risks associated with patient infections and risks contributing to hospital acquired infections (HAI). I evaluate infection programs and revise as needed. I am responsible for compliance with requirements to NHSN and CDPH and our local Health Department. I maintain, track and trend all incidents of infections and communicable diseases. As the Utilization Review Nurse I continued to do concurrent reviews of all physician documentation as I did as the CDS. I work with the new CDS to assure medical necessity and that patients are placed in the appropriate admission status. I continue to work closely with the medical staff re the above and to educate as needed. I review all insurance denials or any time the payment is below 15%, to assure coding is appropriate and that medical necessity is documented. Then I assist the Utilization Review Physician to do a peer to peer review or an appeal letter when appropriate. I work closely with the coders and billing to assure we are reimbursed appropriately. I am a resource to educate staff, families and patients regarding medical necessity and appropriate levels of care. I currently am working on program to insure we have pre-authorization for all surgeries. As the Risk Specialist I am responsible for the Occurrence/ Incident Reports. I collect and analyze the data for trends or patterns and submit the data to the Quality Manager. I am the contact person for any liability issues and will review and work with our liability carrier and hospital attorney as needed. I investigate and report occurrences that fall under the category of the Colorado Occurrence Reporting to CDPHE. I maintain updates and renew insurance

policies for our professional and general liability, personal property and automobiles. I am responsible for assuring we are getting the right amount of coverage for the best price. I am responsible for renewing the Hospitals state licensure. I am a resource to staff for education regarding all of the above.

2009-2013 Hospice of Western Colorado (see below)

Delta County Memorial Hospital
2009 to December 2017

Clinical Documentation Specialist

Delta County Memorial Hospital
2013 to 2015

I was responsible for concurrent review of all physician documentation to assure that patients were placed in the correct admission status with documented medical necessity. I was responsible for working closely with the medical staff, to educate them as needed regarding CMS regulations and how to clarify documentation for medical necessity.

In 2014 I also took on the position of Employee Health Nurse. Here I assured that all oncoming staff had the appropriate vaccines required for their new position. I assisted staff in being tested for strep and influenza as needed. I was also responsible for yearly Influenza vaccines. I was available for education with staff as needed regarding vaccines, injury or illness. In 2016 I turned the Employee Health Program over to another nurse.

case manager

Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Co - Delta, CO
2009 to 2013

I was a CHPN case manager.

Clinical Coordinator

DCMH/Delta-Montrose Home Health
2003 to 2009

I was responsible for all scheduling and patient distribution for all staff. I received and processed all insurance approvals with private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. I did chart audits, staff evaluations and ICD9 coding. I taught pediatric classes both for home health and the hospital. I was involved in financial planning. I also filled in and saw patients as needed. I taught wound care as needed and drew blood and started IV's on difficult patients. I was gone for 6 months and then returned and worked in the hospital as a staff nurse and then as a charge nurse. My charge nurse duties included helping thru out the hospital as needed.

Director of Health Care Services

Interim Health Care
2003 to 2003

I was responsible for all staff and patient distribution. I oversaw all scheduling. I was responsible for management of the agency including being involved with the owner re financial planning and outcome. I oversaw all insurance and coding. I did chart audits and staff evaluations. I traveled a lot with in the parent company. I spent a lot of time networking with the medical community to facilitate referrals. During my tenure I was involved with an extended survey and Plan of corrections.

Staff RN

St Mary's Hospital I - Grand Junction, CO
2003 to 2003

CCU/ICU staff nurse

Education

Associate Degree

Southern Arkansas University - Magnolia, AR
1988

Certification in Practical Nursing

Northeastern Junior College - Sterling, CO
1985

Additional Information

I've been in nursing for many years. I started as an aide, became an LPN and then became an RN. From this I've learned to respect all levels of nursing. I'm very organized and enjoy challenges. I enjoy learning and teaching. I have been a preceptor for nursing students. I have been certified in ACLS, PALS, NALS, TNCC, CHPN. I have worked in management at different levels from supervisor of an ER; ADON in a nursing home; Clinical Coordinator for a home health agency; to a Director of a home health agency. I take responsibility of my patients first and foremost, but I also understand the importance of my financial responsibility to the facility. I work well with physicians, families and other team members. I have worked with all ages from newborn to the very old and enjoy them all.