



Campaign for Action...*Just the Facts Please*

Q: I've heard about new legislation called the "Care Act". What is this and how does it affect my hospital and practice?

A: Yes, it is new legislation. Gov. Rick Snyder signed the Michigan CARE Act on April 13; it became effective July 12, 2016. The Michigan Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act, is intended to support and equip family caregivers with the basic information and training they need when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition home.

The Care Act has three basic provisions that hospitals need to comply to (most hospitals are likely already in compliance, but may need to ensure documentation):

- Record the name of the caregiver when a loved one is admitted into a hospital.
- Notify the caregiver when the patient is going to be discharged home or to another facility.
- Give the family caregiver an opportunity for instruction and a demonstration of the medical tasks required when their loved one returns home (according to the act, if deemed necessary by the appropriate hospital personnel "in the exercise of their professional judgement").

As we understand at present, the law does not require the hospital to submit any documents or audits to prove compliance. However, compliance to this new law could be part of an accreditation survey (i.e., The Joint Commission, CMS, etc.). And, patients and/or their families could call CMS, Joint Commission, etc. for non-compliance.

