

## **Abstract 34**

### **Title: Discharge Planning: Inviting Students to Take an Active Role**

#### *Problem/Needs Assessment:*

Research has demonstrated that the period following discharge is a vulnerable time for patients. Providers often overestimate patient readiness for discharge compared to patient self-report. This is a new frontier for medical education and offers new opportunities for medical student engagement. Therefore, developing curricula to explore social determinants of health prior to discharge would enhance both medical student education and patient experience.

#### *Program Objectives:*

1. To engage students in the discharge process and help them identify key social determinants of health that might impact future care

#### *Description of Program:*

Eighty one third year medical students at Wake Forest School of Medicine completed a 45 minute self-directed module on discharge planning and social determinants of health during their Surgery clerkship. They were then tasked with using a discharge planning checklist card to administer to a patient during their rotation. Responses were de-identified and reviewed to identify common themes and to detect opportunities to impact the patient's transition to home.

#### *Evaluation/Assessment:*

The goal of this exercise was to both highlight the importance of talking with patients and their caregivers about social determinants of health prior to discharge while involving medical students in this process. Students most commonly discovered barriers to discharge related to transportation (23/81), patient education (20/81), lack of support for patients (16/81), and housing or disposition (14/81) upon discharge. The discharge activity had a goal of inspiring students to think about this topic early in their medical careers and to encourage them to keep this in mind with future patients. It also allowed students to have a voice at the time of discharge.

*Conclusions and Lessons Learned:*

Encouraging students to use a checklist card during the discharge process of their Surgery rotation helped students identify potential pitfalls and obstacles to discharge for patients. By providing the students with a tangible checklist, and introducing them to the concept of evaluating patients for a safe discharge, they are provided with tools that they can continue to use to impact change for patients throughout the rest of their careers.