

Care Pathways

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Overview: *Care Pathways*

This book has the user study an example of a care pathway, then has the user build and run a care pathway. The example in the book steps the user through building and running an acute coronary syndrome care pathway, starting when the patient arrives at the emergency department, and ending when the patient finishes cardiac therapy.

To be successful with care pathways, the user will need to complete MedTrak's *Medical Clinic Workflow* book and lab.

Chapter 1 - Introduction to Care Pathways

Introduces care pathways and provides a brief history of their development and use. The purpose of this book is to teach the user how to build a care pathway after following the example of an acute coronary syndrome pathway.

The structure of MedTrak's care pathways includes the following elements:

- Care pathway name and description
- Patient locations during treatment
- Time frames for treatments, tests, observations, and instructions
- Categories of treatments, tests, observations, and instructions
- Process steps involved in treatments, tests, observations, and instructions
- Rules - Orders involved in each of the process steps
 - Patient's age range – if applicable
 - Patient's gender – if applicable
 - Patient's weight range – if applicable
 - Questions (steps) or results of the rule's workflow
 - Triggers for normal answers to a question (step)
 - Values of the test results that will drive another rule (order)

Chapter 2 - Cardiac Patient Flow Documentation

Provides an example of the patient flow documentation for a patient suffering from chest pains.

Chapter 3 - Example of a Care Pathway

Provides an example of the care pathway documentation for a patient suffering from chest pains using an Excel spreadsheet to break down the care pathway into time and process categories.

Chapter 4 - Logging in to MedTrak

Introduces MedTrak and how to locate the MedTrak web site. The user then accesses the system using his assigned customer login user name and password. To enter the assigned location, the user enters his employee initials and password. The importance of password protection is emphasized, and the user learns to change and control his password.

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Chapter 5 - Helpful Tips and Navigation

This chapter utilizes the MedTrak User Guide located on the Main Menu. The user learns about the common screen elements, basic navigation for selecting items and entering commands, the use of selection boxes, expanded answers using the keyboard and voice recognition, picking items from a category list, basic searching, helpful tips, and frequently asked questions.

Chapter 6 - Building a Care Pathway in MedTrak

This chapter teaches the user how to build the basic elements of a care pathway in MedTrak.

Chapter 7 - Patient Registration

The user learns in this how to add a patient to MedTrak. For new patients, the user learns to record all of the patient's demographic information (just like adding a patient). For existing patients, the user learns to review the demographics with the patient for accuracy. Also, for new patients, the user will create a new case. For Patient Responsibility patients, the user will attach the appropriate payers. Each visit requires a new visit record to identify the type of visit – doctor, order only, orthopedic, rehab services, chiropractic, etc. Since MedTrak is a problem-focused system, the user then learns to select the presenting problem(s) for injuries and illnesses.

Chapter 8 - Nursing Intake

In this chapter, the user learns to use the Clinic Status screen. When the user decides which room the patient will use, they will move them on the Clinic Status screen. After putting the patient in a room, the first step in processing the patient is for the nurse to answer the preliminary patient history questions and document the patient's vital signs. The user learns about the various types of questions including questions with normal answers, stored responses, and expanded answers. Once the nurse finishes with initial patient intake, he learns to pass the baton (put the chart in the rack) to the provider.

Chapter 9 - Running a Care Pathway

In this chapter, the user learns how to run a care pathway, process open orders, view completed care pathway steps, pause a care pathway, and restart a care pathway.