**PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines for monitoring the patient’s response to care, and for reporting to the patient’s physician.

**POLICY**

Clinicians will monitor, document, and report the patient’s response to care and treatment provided on each home visit. Progress of goals will be measured at regular intervals.

Clinicians will establish and maintain ongoing communication with the physician to ensure safe and appropriate care for the patient.

**PROCEDURE**

1. During each home visit, the clinician will monitor the patient’s response to care against the established goals including, but not limited to:
   1. Care interventions and treatments
   2. Medications
   3. Teaching
2. During case conferences as well as the recertification process, the care will be evaluated to determine achievement of goals.
3. The patient’s physician will be contacted when any of the following occur:
4. Significant changes in the patient's condition
5. Significant changes in the patient's psychosocial status, family/caregiver support, home environment
6. Inability to achieve goals within the specified time frame
7. Changes in the patient’s expected response to treatment or medications
8. Changes that have occurred regarding diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment (including procedures, medications, precautions, and limitations)
9. When there is any problem implementing the plan of care
10. When results are received for relevant laboratory tests ordered
11. When a visit is missed for any reason
12. Patient is to be discharged from the organization or a specific service   
    is to be discontinued and the frequency of physician orders will not be met.
13. All conferences or attempts to communicate with physician will be documented   
    in the clinical record.
14. When unable to contact the patient’s physician for medical consultation warranted by change in patient’s condition, the following procedures will be followed:
15. The nurse or therapist will notify the Clinical Supervisor or designee regarding the need for medical consultation and problems encountered.
16. The nurse (or therapist) and Clinical Supervisor discuss the patient’s change in condition to determine if emergency treatment is needed.
17. Based on the communication with the physician, a verbal order will be obtained for any change in the plan of care and communicated to all appropriate team members to ensure that care is provided according to the revised plan of care.