

## NARRATIVE CHARTING

In addition to check boxes, narrative documentation helps support the need for GIP level of care. Narrative comments may include, but are not limited to:

- Symptoms—be specific— to what extent is pain or other symptoms impacting comfort—include physical, mental, and emotional symptoms.
- Frequency of nausea, SOB, or other distressing symptoms.
- Frequency of need for staff intervention to monitor behavior and symptoms.
- Summary of interventions to manage symptoms and patients’ response to interventions.
- Decline in patient’s functional abilities—physical and mental—be specific.
- Medications—how frequent are PRNs used, what changes have been made during the shift, how effective are the changes.
- Wounds—be specific—location, size, drainage, treatment, changes in appearance, discomfort associated with wounds.
- Other interventions—suctioning, positioning, etc.
- Extent of education needed to patient and family, including response to education.

## PHRASES TO AVOID

Certain words or phrases are non-specific when used alone. Add'l information must be added to provide detail.

<b>Avoid</b>	<b>Alternate Example</b>
No Complaints	Interventions effective in managing ( <i>insert symptom</i> ).
Patient Stable	Care needs being managed by ( <i>insert intervention</i> ).
Patient Sleeping	Patient resting quietly after earlier ( <i>insert intervention</i> ).
GIP for Pain Management	GIP to manage uncontrolled pain in ( <i>insert location</i> ); continues to require titration of ( <i>insert medication</i> ).
Requires Monitoring	Condition monitored every ( <i>insert time</i> ) to assess ( <i>insert symptom</i> )
Patient Nonverbal	Requires skilled nursing assessment for non-verbal signs of pain and discomfort, anxiety/agitation, SOB/Dyspnea, excessive secretions.
Interventions Effective	Effectiveness of symptom management is continuously reevaluated to achieve optimum comfort.
Support Given	Listened to patient express ( <i>insert, ie: fear of dying</i> ), provided support and education on ( <i>insert, ie: disease process</i> ).
SOB/Dyspnea	Patient presents as SOB/dyspneic with tachypnea, labored breathing, chest retraction, grunting, nose flaring, grunting, etc

Patient is Anxious	Patient appears anxious. He/she is restless, tense, has increased heart rate, trembling, sweating.
Patient is Agitated	Patient appears agitated. He/she is having angry outbursts, is irritable, excessive movements, disruptive behavior.
Education Provided	Explained medication changes to wife—purposes, expected outcomes, side effects. Wife verbalized understanding.