

Interdisciplinary Team Meeting: A simulated geriatric care team meeting for discharge planning with the Cooper Family (2021)

Team Member Input on Ms. Cooper

Social Worker

Gives social history and makes home visit

The social worker reports that the Coopers have been married 68 years. Mr. Cooper served in the Navy during WWII, went to college on the GI Bill and then attended dental school. He sold his dental practice and retired at age 66. Mrs. Cooper was a full-time homemaker and earlier had been active in community service. The Coopers live in an older 2-story home on the edge of an historic neighborhood near downtown.

You made a home visit to carry out a home safety assessment (which sometimes is done by occupational therapists also). The Coopers had already fitted the rear entry with a ramp for wheeling items in and out of the house. However you found the doorways too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair. The only bathroom on the first floor is a half bath that is too small to renovate, but the utility room could potentially be fitted with a shower. There are 16 steps leading from the first to second floor which presents a significant safety risk to Mrs. Cooper.

The Coopers have retirement savings of \$140,000, but do not have Long Term Care Insurance. The Coopers receive \$2040 per month from Social Security. The Coopers own their home, which is currently valued at \$340,000. Ms. Cooper has traditional Medicare (Parts A & B) as well as Part D Medicare. She has no "gap" or other insurances, including long term care insurance.

You met with the Coopers and their son/daughter Mr./Mrs. Allen to discuss placement options for Mrs. Cooper. You learned that Mr. Cooper prefers to take his wife home and their son/daughter wants Mrs. Cooper to go to an assisted living facility. You have read the therapy reports and after completing the home safety assessment, know that returning to home would require the Coopers' make expensive home modifications to accommodate Mrs. Cooper's physical limitations. However, recommendations for the best placement for Mrs. Cooper must also take into account the Coopers' financial resources in addition to what is currently allowed by Medicare.