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Review of: Life Care Planning & Case Management Handbook, 3rd Edition

Author: Weed, R.O., Berens, D.E.

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OVERVIEW

The purpose of this review is to offer occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurse case managers, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and students within these professions a comprehensive approach to providing case management services for persons with catastrophic disabilities. Life Care Plans are used as a legal document in personal injury, wrongful death, and product liability cases to determine monetary and other resources that will be needed across the life span of the person. The book is organized into four sections (36 chapters) with two appendices: (a) The Roles of Life care Planning Team Members, (b) Selected Disabilities: Topics and Issues, (c) Forensic Considerations, (d) General Issues, Appendix I: Standards of Practice for Life Care Planners, and (e) Appendix II. Within these four sections are 36 chapters, a bibliography, and an index.

SECTION I

The Roles of Life Care Plan Team Members

Chapter 1: Life Care Planning (LCP): Past, Present, and Future

Chapter 2: The Role of the Psychiatrist in Life Care Planning

Chapter 3: The Role of the Nurse Case Manager in Life Care Planning

Chapter 4: The Role of the Vocational Counselor in Life Care Planning

Chapter 5: The Role of the Psychologist in Life Care Planning

Chapter 6: The Role of the Neuropsychologist in Life Care Planning

Chapter 7: The Role of the Occupational Therapist in Life Care Planning

Chapter 8: The Role of the Physical Therapist in Life Care Planning

Chapter 9: The Role of the SLP and Assistive Technology in Life Care Planning

Chapter 10: The Role of the Audiologist in Life Care Planning

Chapter 11: The Role of the Economist in Life Care Planning

Chapters 1 through 11 within section one offers a LCP checklist, listing of professional qualifications, awareness of LCP, commitment to the profession, specialty practice experience, medical foundation, and a step-by-step procedure for developing a LCP. This section provides the reader with the role and function of key practitioners and their contribution to the LCP. For example, within chapter nine there are 68 pages of vendors that provide assistive technology and other related resources that are needed (if applicable) to develop a life care plan.

SECTION II

Selected Disabilities: Topics and Issues

Chapter 12: Life Care Planning for the Amputee

Chapter 13: Life Care Planning for Acquired Brain Injury
Chapter 14: Life Care Planning for the Burn Patient
Chapter 15: Life Care Planning for the HIV/AIDS Patient
Chapter 16: Life Care Planning for Depressive Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and Schizophrenia
Chapter 17: Life Care Planning for People with Chronic Pain
Chapter 18: Life Care Planning for Spinal Cord Injury
Chapter 19: Life Care Planning for Organ Transplantation
Chapter 20: Life Care Planning for the Visually Impaired
Chapter 21: Elder Care Management Life Care Planning Principles

Chapters 12 through 21 discusses how LCPs are constructed according to orthopedic impairments, burns, HIV AIDS, sensorial impairments, geriatric/elder care, amputation, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, psychiatric impairments, and chronic pain impairments. The development of LCPs according to the impairment is presented by case examples that illustrate each component of the LCP.

SECTION III

Forensic Considerations

Chapter 22: Forensic Issues for Life Care Planners
Chapter 23: A Personal Perspective of Life Care Planning
Chapter 24: A Plaintiff's Attorney's Perspective on Life Care Planning
Chapter 25: A Defense Attorney's Perspective on Life Care Planning
Chapter 26: Life Care Planning and the Elder Law Attorney
Chapter 27: Day-in-the-Life Video Production in Life Care Planning

Chapters 22 through 27 investigate legal aspects of LCPs as it relates to the personal perspective of a Life Care Planner, Plaintiff's Attorney, and the Defense Attorney. In addition, the section provides examples of "Day-in-the-Life Video Production in Life Care Planning."

SECTION IV

General Issues

Chapter 28: Ethical Issues for the Life Care Planner
Chapter 29: Reliability of Life Care Plans: A Comparison of Original and Updated Plans
Chapter 30: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): From Case Law to Case Management and Life Care Planning Practice,
Chapter 31: Technology and Life Care Planning
Chapter 32: Life Care Planning Resources
Chapter 33: Medical Equipment Choices and the Role of the Rehab Equipment Specialist in Life Care Planning
Chapter 34: Home Assessment in Life Care Planning
Chapter 35: Vehicle Modifications: Useful Considerations of Life Care Planners
Chapter 36: Credentialing and Other Issues in Life Care Planning

Chapters 28 through 36 presents a variety of pertinent issues in developing a LCP which address important domains of a life care plan to include ethical considerations and "best practices" of LCP, reliability of LCPs, credentialing in LCP; important disability policy such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) from case law to case management practice; how technology is used within the LCP, and resources such as medical equipment, home assessment, and vehicle modification.

TABLES, EXHIBITS AND FIGURES

A list of tables and figures are included in each chapter of the book which are number by chapter for ease of reference. The tables and figures are used to illustrate the important definitions, approaches, and strategies to developing LCPs. For instance, in chapter one, the authors present a LCP checklist, in table format, listings of professional qualifications, specialty practice experience, medical foundation for opinion established, and a step-by-step procedure for developing a LCP. In chapter three, the authors present an integrated continuum of care management, financial management, and information sharing within the LCP. Chapter seven provides an Instrumental Activities of Daily Living Assessment that is displayed in table format. The appendices section provides an expansive list to include websites addresses of assistive technology vendors and organization in the United States and internationally.

OVERALL SUITABILITY/AUDIENCE

The Life Care Planning & Case Management Handbook (3rd ed.) provides an effective way to attract potential readers. This book is touted on its back cover as being written to “advance the profession of Life Care Planning while providing a valuable resource and guidebook for advancing the state of the profession.” The authors draw from the works of 39 practitioners, researchers, and educators from every region of the United States. This approach to Life Care Planning (LCP) provides the reader with an enriched opportunity to understand the concepts of the LCP. This is particularly important as the role and function of Life Care Planners (LCPs) become more extensive. The authors’ intent in writing this book was to share information with regard to pertinent concepts in the development of life care plans in a comprehensive manner. The content and nature of the book would most benefit allied health professionals, novice to experience LCPs, vocational rehabilitation counseling educators and professionals, nurse educators, and case managers. However, occupational therapists, physical therapists, rehabilitation counselors, and nurse educators could best utilize the book in relation to discussions about case management approaches within the discipline. The book would also be applicable to allied health practitioners, rehabilitation professionals, and nurses who are considering alternative careers or to augment existing professional roles and function in order to better serve their patients, clients, and consumers. Lastly, the practicality of the book’s content makes it suitable for any person who has a sincere interest in LCP.