

Anna K. Saulitis, AM, LCSW

Chicago, IL
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EDUCATION

Master of Arts: Social Service Administration June 2012
University of Chicago
Concentration: Clinical Social Work

Bachelor of Arts: American Studies May 2007
University of Notre Dame
Concentration: American History, Social Sciences, Literature

LICENSURE

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), IL Sept. 2014 - Present
Licensed Social Worker (LSW), IL Aug. 2012

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: Bethesda, MD Sept. 2020 - Present

Quality Improvement Specialist: Cystic Fibrosis Learning Network

- Advisor for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Cystic Fibrosis Learning Network

Rush University Medical Center: Chicago, IL June 2012 - Present

Clinical Social Worker: Rush Cystic Fibrosis Centers Jan. 2013 - Present

- Provides chronic disease support and care for pediatric and adult patients with CF and their families from diagnosis through lung transplantation or end of life care
- Completes psychosocial assessment, resource screening, and needs based interventions with patients and caregivers
- Facilitates patient connections to community resources, medication copay, access and financial support programs, durable medical equipment providers, mental health services, and family support networks
- Provides education and supportive intervention in areas related to life with CF: insurance and benefits, mental health, transplant, palliative care, advance directives, co-production of treatment plans, education supports, 504/IEP accommodations, college preparation, transition from adult to pediatric care, medication management, healthcare literacy and navigating healthcare systems
- Responsible for the completion of PortCF consent documents and HIPAA forms, maintains IRB compliant PortCF consent tracker
- Manages REDCap Pre-Visit Planning and Day of Visit Planning questionnaires; maintains database for participation and patient choice

Executive Summary Readmission Reduction Project Manager

Nov. 2016 - Present

- Manages development and entry of Executive Summary Plans (ESPs) for frequently admitted patients at Rush University Medical Center
- Collaborates with multidisciplinary care team for plan content creation and review
- Vets monthly Frequently Admitted Patient tracking reports for plan candidate identification
- Maintains plan status tracker; monitors plan creation and update requests
- Collaborates with physician lead and care management director for setting and achieving yearly development aims
- Supported plan entry, updates, and tracking for Rush Oak Park Hospital (ROPH)
- Trained ROPH in independent plan management

Social Work Care Coordinator: Pediatric Palliative Care

Mar. 2015 - June 2018

- Coordinated support services for patients with complex disease, chronic illness, technology dependence, progressive and life-limiting conditions
- Supported parents and caregivers with connection to community and state resources including home nursing waiver programs, durable medical equipment providers, transportation services, condition specific support and program networks and Make a Wish referrals
- Facilitated care planning and decision making support for patients with progression of disease, critical illness or through end-of-life care
- Provided Advance Directives education and facilitated completion of forms
- Participated in multidisciplinary care conferences regarding patient goals of care, code status, and complex decision making
- Supervised MSW student in internship placement

Licensed Social Worker: Pediatric Dialysis

Jan. 2013 – Mar. 2015

- Managed caseload of hemodialysis (HD), peritoneal dialysis (PD) and pre/post kidney transplant patients ages three months to twenty one years
- Completed comprehensive psychosocial assessments, Quality of Life surveys, and mental health screenings; managed insurance, benefits eligibility, medication access, and coverage issues
- Responsible for school coordination, IEP/504 accommodations, homebound documentation, individual transportation plans and associated paperwork.
- Provided crisis intervention, intensive case management services and safety planning for high-risk patients, those connected to the Department of Child and Family services (DCFS), Youth in Care, and youth incarcerated in Juvenile Detention
- Facilitated connections to community, state, and federal programs for patients seeking care from outside of the country, patients without documentation, and with limited or no insurance
- Arranged dialysis treatment for patients traveling to other states or abroad
- Co-managed individual patient safety and disaster preparedness plans
- Supported education and care planning for transplant readiness and transition to adult based care; collaborated with transplant center teams for transplant evaluation readiness and preparation for life after transplant.
- Coordinated and facilitated transitions for patients transferring to adult care centers
- Mentored social work trainees; developed transition manual for social work care team members

Per Diem Social Work Case Manager: Rush Medical Center

June 2012 – Jan. 2013

- Provided care management and discharge planning support for patients receiving inpatient care at Rush University Medical Center
- Conducted comprehensive patient assessments and implemented interventions to overcome barriers to hospital discharge
- Arranged care plans for transitional care and access to outpatient services
- Coordinated safe and appropriate discharge plans with patients, family, and members of the multidisciplinary clinical team

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Epic Systems Corporation, Verona, WI

July 2007 – Sept. 2010

Clinical Consultant & Project Manager: Implementation Services

- Application Management: Responsible for the coordination, implementation, and management of clinical applications for hospital systems contracted with Epic
 - Labor & Delivery
 - Inpatient Clinical Documentation
- Clinical content workgroups: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation & NICU

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications:

- Piscitello, G. M., Fukushima, C. M., Saulitis, A. K., Tian, K. T., Hwang, J., Gupta, S., & Sheldon, M. (2020). Family Meetings in the Intensive Care Unit During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*®. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909120973431>
- Chen, E., Killeen, K. M., Peterson, S. J., Saulitis, A. K., & Balk, R. A. (2017). Evaluation of Pain, Dyspnea, and Goals of Care Among Adults With Cystic Fibrosis: A Comprehensive Palliative Care Survey. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*®, 34(4), 347–352. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909116629135>

Abstracts/Posters:

- Saulitis AK, Peterson SJ, Burke J, Brinkman M, McLean K, McAndrews K, Chen E, Balk RA, Sharma G. Transition self-care skills: Pediatric and young adult patients. Poster presented at the 30th Annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, October 2016, Orlando, FL.
- Saulitis AK, Peterson S, Chen E, Killeen KM, Balk RA. Influence of lung function and age on advance care planning among adult patients with cystic fibrosis. Poster presented at 28th Annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, October 2014, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Killeen K, Chen E, Peterson S, Saulitis AK, Balk RA. Evaluation of pain in patients with cystic fibrosis. Poster presented at 28th Annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, October 2014, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Killeen KM, Peterson S, Chen E, Saulitis AK, Balk RA. Respiratory knowledge assessment: evaluation of adult CF patient understanding of airway clearance and care of respiratory equipment. Poster presented at 28th Annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, October 2014, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Killeen KM, Chen E, Peterson S, Saulitis AK, Balk RA. Evaluation of pain, dyspnea, and advance care planning among adult patients with cystic fibrosis. Poster presented at 27th Annual North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, October 2013, Salt Lake City, Utah.

PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Nashville, TN Presenter: Transforming Care Partnerships Presenter: Co-production in Assessing & Addressing Strategies for Sustaining Daily Care	Oct. 2019
Epic Users Group Meeting, Verona, WI Co-Presenter: Reducing Readmission of High-Utilizer Patients Using Executive Summaries	Aug. 2019
CF Learning Network Community Conference, Washington D.C. Presenter: QI Skills Intermediate Breakout – “Reliability” Presenter: Curriculum from the Chronic Care Model: Planned Visits Co-Facilitator: Nurses and QI Leads Breakout	May 2019
North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Denver, CO Presenter: Psychosocial Collaborative "Why Talking Matters" Presenter: Unique Challenges of a CF Diagnosis Later in Life Moderator: Qualitative Research Methods & QI Projects	Oct. 2018
Coleman’s Symposium, Chicago, IL Supportive and Palliative Care for Children with Cancer, Chicago, IL Presenter: Family Support	Apr. 2018
North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Indianapolis, IN Moderator and Presenter: QI - A social work perspective Presenter: Consultation Clinic - When is it Medical Neglect?	Oct. 2017
Rush Inter-Professional Education Panel, Chicago, IL Co-presenter: Function and Dynamics of a Multi-disciplinary Team	Sept. 2017
North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Orlando, FL Moderator: Mental Health Screening - Lessons Learned the First Year	Oct. 2016
American Case Management Association National Conference, Tampa, FL Speaker: Building an Effective Pediatric Case Management Team	Apr. 2016
Rush Inter-Professional Education Panel, Chicago, IL Co-Presenter: Introduction to Patient Centered Teams: Healthcare as Teamwork	Sept. 2015

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Cystic Fibrosis Learning Network (CFLN) Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Cincinnati Children's Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rush Quality Improvement Leader○ Co-Chair: Network Quality Improvement Leader Work Group○ Participant: FIES Learning Lab Design Panel	May 2017 – Present
Lung Transplant Transition Regional Dissemination Network (RDN) Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Dartmouth Institute	Mar 2019 – Present
Lung Transplant Transition Learning and Leadership Collaborative Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Dartmouth Institute	Oct. 2017 – Mar. 2019
OneCF Learning and Leadership Collaborative II; Adult Quality Improvement Program III Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Dartmouth Institute	Jan. 2013 – Apr. 2016

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The James M. Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence Intermediate Improvement Science Series (I ² S ²)	Aug. 2020 – Present
Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)	Feb. 2017
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital Social Work Course Child Maltreatment Assessment and Prevention	Mar. 2016

COMMITTEE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Lung Association Scientific and Medical Editorial Review Panel	Nov. 2019 – Nov. 2020
Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Healthcare Subcommittee	Jan. 2018 - Present
Rush Care Management Committee Co-Chair: Professional Development & Clinical Practice Committee	Jan. 2018 - Present
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Great Strides Chicago Fundraising Walk Coordinator: Rush for the Cure	Jan. 2013 - Present