

We're asking for your help to improve transitions of care at the point of hospital discharge and ensure you, as family physicians and nurse practitioners, receive the information you need to provide safe quality care after discharge.

At the upcoming **Department of Family Practice Spring Forum**, the Central Zone Transitions Team will be leading a discussion of the quality and quantity of discharge summaries issued from our facilities, in which we hope you will provide your input.

Over the last two years, we have implemented a standardized electronic discharge summary (eDischarge) tool and provided education to care providers in our hospitals in an effort to improve documentation and communication at discharge. We are seeing some positive results (see below), but there's still plenty of work to be done in this regard.

At the Spring Forum, we would like to hear from you about:

- What **you** need included in a discharge summary
- Whether you think providing a patient with a summary positively impacts their health management

Discharge summary audit results

A recent 1000-chart audit from areas across the QEII and Dartmouth General (a repeat of baseline and year-one surveys) measured whether patients' discharge summaries included the five medical/legal requirements:

1. Final diagnosis/ most responsible diagnosis
2. Outcome of care /condition upon discharge
3. Medications on discharge documented OR that no medications are required
4. Arrangements for follow-up, and who is doing this OR documentation that no follow-up is required.
5. Advising the Family Physician of what relevant instructions are given to the patient. Physician to physician communication of pertinent instructions given to the patient, client or family OR that no special instructions required.

Tool	Diagnosis	Outcome	Follow up	Medication	Instructions
eDischarge	100%	100%	100%	97%	99%
Dictated	96%	72%	94%	87%	47%
Dictated & handwritten	99%	84%	97%	98%	63%
Handwritten	89%	25%	89%	87%	42%
No summary	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%
Total	95.1%	72.3%	94.2%	92.3%	66.2%

With an emphasis on education and leveraging technology moving forward, we expect improvements in frequency, quantity and quality of documentation and communication.

We are looking forward to a robust discussion that will yield positive results for patients, for you, and for providers in our facilities. Should you have any questions about our session at the Spring Forum or efforts to improve transitions of care at the point of discharge, please contact Ruth Harding, project manager, ruth.harding@nshealth.ca.

We look forward to seeing you on May 27th.