

Discharge Summary To GPs


Introduction

"What is a Discharge Summary?"

It is a clinical report written by the discharging physician at the time of releasing a patient from the hospital. It outlines the patient's:

- ✓ Medical condition
- ✓ Investigations done
- ✓ Treatment provided during admission

DISCHARGE SUMMARY	
History	
Travel History	
Physical Examination	
Investigation	
Treatment	
Vital Signs	
Follow-up Notes	
Main Diagnosis	
Advice / Education Given	



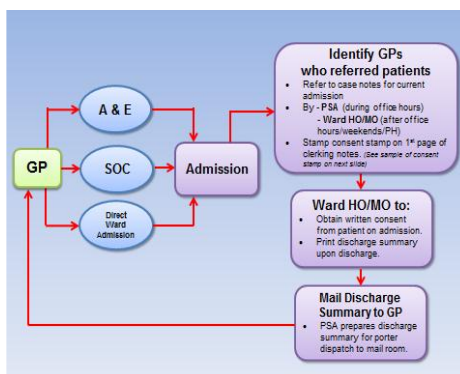
"What is the aim of sending a Discharge Summary to referring GPs?"



Discharge summary is important for the post-discharge care and follow-up by the referring GPs. It is to encourage a shared care basis in which a summarised clinical report is provided to the referring General Practitioner (GP) on their admitted patients' episode of care upon the patients' discharge from Singapore General Hospital (SGH) wards, with the patients' consent. This is to provide the patients with a holistic and seamless care upon discharge.

Methodology

The Patient Service Associates (PSA), House Officers (HO) and/or ward Medical Officers (MO) identify GP-referred patients from the patients' case notes. The HO/MO obtains written consent from patient on admission. Upon discharge, the HO/MO prepares the Discharge Summary and the PSA will dispatch them to be mailed out to the referring GPs.



(A pilot test based on 20 GP-referred patients were conducted at SGH Ward 73 & 78 for patients admitted to the wards from 1st – 30th November 2013.)

Result

Based on the pilot test, 85% of the GP-referred patients are agreeable to have their Discharge Summary provided to their referring GPs while 15% declined.

Pilot Test Summary

Yes = 85%
No = 15%



(The Discharge Summary to GPs is in the final stage of implementation).

Conclusion

The high rate of patient consent (85%) suggests that most patients recognise the importance of sending the Discharge Summary to their referring GPs for better continuity of care. The shared-care approach helps to develop a more cohesive partnership between SGH and the GPs in order to build a continuous reciprocal nature of working relationships to improve patient care.

Communication of essential information is important for the better management of their patients' health. This may reduce the rates of re-admissions due to poor post-discharge management, decrease healthcare costs and promote positive outcomes for patients.

