



DHBNZ Safe and Quality Use of Medicines Group
Position Statement
Discharge Summaries
2005

Background

A discharge summary is required for all patients discharged from hospital in New Zealand. These are to inform the primary care team about the patient's hospital admission and the treatment they received. The method of preparation, whose responsibility it is to write the discharge summary, the information included and how it is transmitted to the primary care team varies between patients, doctors, wards and hospitals.

Review of research

There is a considerable amount of research showing that discharge summaries are often incomplete, misleading and often delayed in reaching the patient's general practitioner.^{1,2,3} Research has also shown that the information contained in discharge summaries does not always match the information needs of general practitioners.^{4,5,6}

References

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