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Passing the clinical baton: 6 principles to guide the hospitalist

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Abstract

Hospitalist systems make it increasingly common for responsibility for a patient to be passed from one physician to another. During such transfers, patients' outcomes and satisfaction can benefit from better communication between hospitalists and the primary care physicians whose patients they care for. We propose 6 principles to guide such communication, to ensure that critical information about patients is not lost and to optimize the quality of care. We also discuss special considerations for patients discharged to a skilled nursing facility or to home with home care.



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- 1 Dr. Pantilat is a Soros Foundation Project on Death in America Faculty Scholar and a recipient of a K23 Mentored Patient Oriented Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes on Aging.

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