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## **An Evaluation of the Value of the Current Discharge Process and Accuracy of the Attached Medication List**

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**Background** The discharge process is an important period for patients' movement from hospital to community. Transferring the correct information is crucial for maintaining patients' health. This includes a complete and accurate medication list. A need was identified to evaluate the effect of incorporation of this data from a pharmacy medication reconciliation tool into an electronic Discharge Summary (EDS).

**Method** Gold Coast Hospital is a public hospital with 500 beds capacity. This retrospective study was conducted at the hospital between July to August 2009. A sample of 249 patients discharged from medical wards during the first weeks of April (69 patients), May (80 patients) and June (100 patients) was selected. Patients' records were reviewed.

**Results** Show that 212 (85%) patients were discharged with an EDS. Of these 187 (88%) were produced during week days and 25 (12%) during weekends. Moreover 167 (79%) discharge medication lists were attached. A Pharmacy program (eLMS) was used to attach 81 (49%) lists and medical officers (MO) attached the rest 86 (51%). Sixty four Medical records were required to check medication lists accuracy. More incorrect entries (171) were discovered in MO lists compared with fewer (15) in eLMS lists. Missing ADRs was the major error (97 out of 171) in MO lists.

**Conclusion** Lack of time is the main problem MO's face in producing an EDS. Pharmacists should review all discharge prescriptions and discharge medication lists to reduce medicine errors. An EDS should be sent to (general practitioners) GPs immediately after the patient's discharge by email.

**Opportunities for Collaboration in Health** The study was undertaken at Gold Coast Hospital; however the study recommendations could potentially apply to other hospitals. The study recommends improved cooperation between medical officers and pharmacists to improve the current discharge process. Better collaboration is also recommended between medicine and pharmacy schools at universities level to improve the health system and reduce medication errors.