



IMPROVING WEEKEND HANDOVER - FRIDAY WARD ROUND SHEET

Problem:

Weekend/out of hours ward cover is challenging when one is asked to see patients with whom they are not familiar.

We surveyed junior doctors who felt that:

- It was **time consuming** to search through medical notes in order to find out important details.
- Information regarding the **ceilings of care and treatment aims** was **poorly, if at all, defined**.
- **Jobs** handed over were **too vague** and **without specific aims**.
- **Discharge criteria** for weekend discharges were often **not defined**; reducing junior confidence in doing so.



Solution:

A weekend handover sheet

Completed on the Friday ward round by the **consultant/senior doctor** to replace the usual notes entry.

Benefits of solution:

1. **Bright and easy to find.**
2. **Summarises current problems and patient background to limit time spent searching through notes.**
3. **Allows ceilings of care / treatment aims to be defined.**
4. **Clarifies specific jobs to be completed out of hours.**
5. **Defines criteria for discharge and thus aiding juniors to facilitate weekend discharge.**
6. **Act as a reminder to complete jobs including prescription of warfarin/ fluids etc.**



Outcomes and benefits:

The form has been used on Swift ward over the past 1 month- users found:

- **Reduces time** looking through the notes (FY1)
- **Improves confidence** in weekend discharge (FY1)
- **Encourages seniors to make decisions** regarding DNACPR/ treatment aims (FY1)
- **Ensures we anticipate problems** over the weekends (consultant)
- It is **informative** if have been off duty (Staff Nurse)
- **Improves patient safety** as we have more information on which to base decisions (FY1)
- **Improves communication** between doctors and nurses regarding management plans for palliative care patients; **preventing unnecessary investigations** (Sister)

Get Involved:

To implement the form in your clinical area contact: **Change Champions: L. Neale and S. Maisey (FY1)**
Alternatively visit <http://bethechangeasph.com/>

