



Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

Team-Based Initiative

Patient Oriented Discharge Summaries (PODS)

The Patient Oriented Discharge Summaries (PODS) initiative is a simple tool that fits into the current discharge process, and engages patients in their own care by equipping those patients leaving the hospital to receive five key pieces of information communicated in an easy-to-understand manner. The five pieces of information are as follows: 1) when to call if they need help; 2) danger signals to watch out for after going home; 3) purpose of home medications; 4) side effects of medications to watch out for; and 5) when to resume usual activities after inpatient stay. The program also includes a suite of resources to support adoption, including patient and provider education materials, current state assessments and an online learning community.

In 2015, PODS were adopted in select departments across 8 Toronto Central LHIN hospitals, and are available, free of charge, for use or modification to under the Creative Commons. Among patients given PODS across early adopter sites, 92% of those patients “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with statements about their understanding of their discharge instructions.

PODS have been shown to work in different care environments, including acute care, rehabilitation, surgery, and paediatrics, and there are plans in place to continue to spread PODS across the province.

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*The information provided above is taken directly from 2015 Minister's Medal applications –
Facts and information herein have not been checked for accuracy.*