

# EFFECT OF A HANDOVER TOOL ON RESIDENT AND STAFF ATTITUDES TOWARD PATIENT HANDOVER IN A GENERAL PAEDIATRICS INPATIENT UNIT

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## ABSTRACT: Poster (P-20)

**Background:** Patient handover, the transfer of information and responsibility from one set of caregivers to another, is a topic which has received international attention over the past several years. It is well known that improvements in patient handover can lead to reductions in medical errors and preventable adverse events. Unfortunately, patient handovers often contain inadequate information. Despite this, many centres, including the Janeway Children's Hospital, do not have standard handover procedures.

**Learning Objectives:** The aim of the current study is to assess resident and staff perceptions of patient handover in our General Pediatrics Unit before and after the implementation of a handover tool. Our hypothesis is that a structured handover tool will improve resident and staff satisfaction with handover in our centre.

**Methods:** We recruited residents and staff from the Janeway Children's Hospital to respond to a written pre-survey regarding patient handover. Afterwards, a standardized handover tool was implemented on the General Pediatrics Ward for 8 months. Participants then completed a postsurvey, the results of which were compared with the pre-survey.

**Results & Discussion:** Among residents, there were 19 participants in the pre-survey and 15 in the post-survey. Among staff, there were 13 participants in the pre-survey and 7 in the post-survey. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 24 independent T-test. After implementation of the handover tool, residents were significantly less likely to later discover an important piece of information which was not given during handover (2.95 vs. 2.33, 95% CI 0.144, 1.084,  $p < 0.05$ ). Otherwise, there was no difference in resident or staff attitudes toward handover in the pre and post survey.

**Take Home Message:** Implementation of a handover tool significantly reduces the late discovery of information among residents on a general paediatrics inpatient unit.