

PROVINCIAL STANDARD FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DISCHARGES

Approved by the
Provincial Health Information Management Committee
June 7, 2022

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Purpose

To promote consistent data collection provincially and limit patient safety issues.

Background

The registration system is the backbone of health system services and accurate statistics derived from this data is integral for health system operations and planning. Wait times in Emergency Departments (ED) are calculated using admission and discharge times; therefore, it is important to ensure that all ED visits are discharged with accurate date and time to reflect the patient encounter.

An accurate and current census is also needed to ensure patient safety and accountability. In the event of an emergency, it is important for clinical staff to have an accurate list of patients for whom they are currently responsible. As such, it is important to ensure discharges are done as close to real time as possible. In the event that close-to-real-time discharges cannot be done, patients can be discharged retrospectively, but this should only be the practice when all other options have been exhausted.

Additionally, results/reports are often sent to the ED Provider noted in the patient encounter. To ensure the correct provider gets the information, the appropriate provider must be updated in the patient encounter.

Standard

All Emergency Department (ED) encounters must be discharged from the system following the patient's departure, using the correct date and time of patient departure, as close to real time as possible.

The default ED Provider should be confirmed and changed if necessary.

Questions regarding this Standard can be directed to:

Health Information Standards and Quality Division
Health Data and Information Services
Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information
Telephone: (709)752-6000

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