Transitions of Care/ Patient Handoff

PROCEDURE

VMC Standardized Process for Resident Physician and Fellow Change-of-Duty Handoff
Requested by Unanimous Vote of the Resident Council on February 8, 2017

Background

The ACGME CLER Pathways to Excellence for an optimal clinical learning environment for safe and high quality care require that resident physicians and fellows use a common clinical site-based process for change-of-duty patient hand-offs. The I-PASS standardized format has been used institution-wide in other facilities and has been shown to reduce hand-off errors and adverse events without a negative effect on work flow.*

Process

1. All change-of-duty hand-offs will occur in a quiet environment with distractions minimized.

2. All change-of-duty hand-offs will use a format that includes the following elements:
   a. Illness severity
   b. Patient summary and plan
   c. Action items
   d. Situation awareness and contingency planning (including if/then scenarios)
   e. Synthesis by the receiver

3. Other elements may be added by individual programs and departments as needed.
4. All inter-institutional change-of-duty hand-offs will be directly supervised by senior residents for faculty until hand-off proficiency using the elements above is established.


Policy Owners: Cardiology Fellowship & Vidant Medical Center
Approved by: Vidant’s Resident Council
Policy Effective Date: 2/8/2017
Policy Review Date: 4/1/17, 02/8/2020