

Clinical Efficiency: Inpatient Admissions

Before ED sign out:

- 1) **Chart review primary data**
 1. Vitals
 2. Labs
 3. Imaging
 4. Procedures
 5. Medications/Allergies
- 2) **ED RN Triage note with chief complaint**

During ED sign out:

3) Keep it professional & brief

- The ED is there to triage the patient, not necessarily diagnose them
- Mitigate anchoring bias
 - *I often prefer to READ the ED notes once I've come to my own conclusions rather than hear about it during verbal sign out BEFORE I've been able to see the patient*
- If there is a concern about level of care or appropriateness for the floor then defer to your senior/attending

After ED sign out:

4) Limit yourself to 5 minutes of directed chart note review

- Ask specific questions of the chart using DC summary & PCP/Specialist notes
 - Recent phone calls from patient to the VA, often reveal social issues
 - Recent med changes
 - Concerns from recent visits that might be pertinent
 - Procedures
 - Disease specific concerns/plans
 - *Cancer patient's chemo regimen*
 - *CHF patient's last medication changes/plans per cards*
 - *PCP visit noting any med changes or referrals*

5) See the patient

- The patient interview is PRIMARY DATA
- Ask the PATIENT questions not just the chart
- Bring a written or printed out medication list to do med rec on your initial encounter

6) Notes

- **Dependent on your personal work flow:**
 - Concurrent w/primary data chart review
 - *After sign out and before seeing the patient*
 - After seeing the patient
 - *All the above*

7) Orders

- **Skeleton orders (bed order, VS, tele, etc.) should be put in ASAP after ED sign out**
 - *This allows patient to transition to floor and RN to start their work flow*
 - *Home meds should NOT be added until after you have confirmed during patient interview*
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8) Further Chart Reading

- *Only after orders are done, patient is seen/examined, nearly completed your note*
- *This is time independent and can occur as you have availability*
- *Might read as you put more thought into your H&P if you have time*
- *Some might occur the following day*