

## **Adequacy of hospital discharge summaries in documenting tests with pending results and outpatient follow-up providers.**

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Were MC, Li X, Kesterson J, et al. Adequacy of hospital discharge summaries in documenting tests with pending results and outpatient follow-up providers. J Gen Intern Med. 2009;24(9):1002-6.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/adequacy-hospital-discharge-summaries-documenting-tests-pending-results-and-outpatient-follow>

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[Adverse events after hospital discharge](#) are a continued threat to patient safety and a significant source of [communication](#) failures, particularly for tests that are [pending](#) at discharge. This study reviewed nearly 700 discharge summaries from two academic centers and found that only 16% of pending tests were mentioned and that only 13% of discharge summaries listed all pending tests. Equally concerning was that follow-up providers' information was documented in only 67% of cases. Recognition of these problems has led to the development of discharge [checklists](#) and [reengineering](#) of the process. A past AHRQ WebM&M [perspective](#) and [interview](#) discussed issues around safe [care transitions](#).