

Is it time for the mental health field to consider unplanned discharge a key metric of patient safety?

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/it-time-mental-health-field-consider-unplanned-discharge-key-metric-patient-safety>

Unplanned discharges (also referred to as leaving against medical advice) can lead to [adverse patient outcomes](#). This study compared unplanned discharges across Veterans Health Affairs (VHA) acute inpatient and residential mental health treatment settings over a ten-year period and found that unplanned discharges are significantly higher in [mental health](#) settings. The authors recommend that unplanned discharges be measured to assess patient safety in mental health.