



Your discharge summary

Your hospital guide 5

About this booklet



This easy-to-read booklet is about the **discharge summary** you will get when you are leaving hospital.

A discharge summary includes all the important information about your care when you were in hospital



The hospital team who looked after you in hospital will write your discharge summary.

They will send it to your GP or Specialist.



A good discharge summary is important because:

It will help your GP and other health professionals give you good care when you are back at home.

This will help you to stay well.

Understanding your discharge summary



A discharge summary is mostly in medical language, so it can be hard to understand.

But it is important that you know what is in it.

So it is a good idea to have a support person or advocate with you to help you understand it.



Before you leave hospital

First, **read** your discharge summary,



Then, **review** your discharge summary,

and

Request a copy of your discharge summary to take home.



You can read how to do this over the page.

Read

The discharge summary contains lots of medical words.

Here are the different parts of the discharge summary and what they mean.



Problems/diagnosis

This is why you went into hospital.

Clinical Interventions performed

This is medical treatments or operations you had in hospital.



Clinical Synopsis or Clinical Summary

This explains your medical condition while you were in hospital.



Management – Progress

This is therapy and care programs you had in hospital.

Diagnostic Investigations

This is tests you had in hospital, such as blood tests and scans.





Health Profile – adverse reactions

This is any allergies or bad reactions you had in hospital.



Medications – current medications on discharge.

This is a list of all the medicines you are on when you leave hospital.



Medications – ceased medications

These are medications you don't need to take any more.



Recommendations and information

This part has information about services and appointments for you after you leave hospital

The hospital will organise some but you might also have to organise some.

Review



Go through the discharge summary to make sure you understand it and know what to do when you leave hospital.

Do this with your health team, a support person and maybe an advocate.

Here are some things to think about:



Do I understand what happened to me in hospital?

Do I understand what treatment I need now and in future?



Do I know which medications to take, and when to take them?



Do I know about any allergies or bad reactions I had in hospital?

Do I know what to do so I don't have them again?



Do I know what to do if my health problems happen again?

Do I know when my follow-up appointments are?



Do people in my support network understand the information in my discharge summary.?

If the people who support you understand, they will know how to help you when you leave hospital.

Request



Before you leave hospital

Ask for your own copy of your discharge summary.

It is important information to keep.

You might want to share it with your support network and maybe service providers.



Ask your health team:

When they will put your discharge summary onto your My Health Record (if you have one).



When they will send your discharge summary to your GP or Specialist.

After leaving hospital



If you are worried that the information in your discharge summary is wrong you can ask about it.

The Patient Liaison Officer at the hospital will talk to the health team about your worries.



Or, tell your GP or Specialist what you are worried about and ask them to help you work it out.



If you are still worried about information in your discharge summary, you can ask the hospital for a copy of your patient file.

The law says you have the right to do this. The law is the Freedom of Information Act.