



EAST CAROLINA
HEART INSTITUTE

AT VIDANT MEDICAL CENTER
East Carolina Heart Institute
Cardiology Fellowship

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 intern-to-intern change-of-duty hand-offs will be directly supervised by senior residents for faculty until hand-off proficiency using the elements above is established.

*Starmer AJ, et al. Changes in medical errors after implementation of a hand-off program. New England Journal of Medicine 2014; 371:1803-1812.

Policy Owners: Cardiology Fellowship
& Vidant Medical Center
Approved by: Vidant's Resident Council
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