eDischarge NHS Standard Contract Oct 2015 Target: Messaging options

Supporting guidance for Acute & Mental NHS Health Trusts

Transfer of Care Service
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1. Background

Changes to the 2015/16 NHS Standard Contract Service Condition 11.6 require acute and mental NHS Trusts to send inpatient and day case discharge summaries subject to the 24 hour rule to GP practices electronically by October 2015.

This is the first step in a digital journey around moving from paper to electronic, then moving to electronic structured messaging in order to realise benefits around patient safety, outcome and experience.

The October 2015 contract change is the first step in moving towards this objective. This means NHS Trusts should start to develop a roadmap which will minimise the tactical procurement and/or business process changes required to hit this future target.

2. Tactical Options for October 2015

If you already deliver discharge summaries electronically to GP practices in your locality (using any electronic delivery method) then you don’t need to take any immediate action.

If you currently use post or fax then you will need to implement an electronic solution by October 2015 in order to avoid penalties imposed by your Clinical Commissioning Group.

For October 2015 there are a number of tactical options available to meet this target:

- Existing intermediary delivery methods are perfectly acceptable for 2015. However, you should start conversations with and apply pressure to your system supplier to ascertain their support for the delivery of a structured message in forthcoming years. You can download the existing Transfer of Care eDischarge specifications from the Health and Social Care Information Centre TRUD website.

- You can use email with an attachment (for example pdf/word/jpg file) as a delivery method. Please note as we move to direct transmission of transfer of care documents in future years an email based solution will require replacement.

- You can use the national Data Transfer service (DTS) to deliver your discharge summaries. Please note the current DTS system will be migrating to an upgraded message exchange service for health (MESH). You will be required to sign up to MESH and agree to an early migration date. Please email information.standards@hscic.gov.uk to register for this service.
3. Is your Trust ready for the October 2015 deadline?

Are you sending Discharge Summaries* by post/fax to GP Practices within your local catchment area?

No → This is acceptable for the October 2015 deadline**

Yes

Do you have capability and capacity to send Discharge Summaries electronically via an existing intermediary system?

Yes → This is an acceptable approach for the October 2015 deadline**

No

Do you have current capability and capacity to send Discharge Summaries as attachments (for example as PDF, doc) to send via secure email? (nhs.net)

Yes → This is an acceptable approach for the October 2015 deadline**

No

Do you have current capability and capacity to send Discharge Summaries via the Data Transfer Service (DTS)?

Yes → This is an acceptable approach for the October 2015 deadline**

No

You are in danger of breaching the NHS Standard Contract 2015/16 October deadline - Service Condition 11.6

Please email information.standards@hscic.gov.uk for advice and guidance.

Please note:
* Discharge Summaries defined as inpatient and day cases that are currently subject to the 24 hour delivery targets. This includes acute and mental health.

** Requirements may change in the 2016/17 NHS Standard Contract, so you might want to consider a more strategic approach.
4. Strategic Considerations

In direct support of the National Information Board (NIB): Personalised health and care 2020: framework for action objectives to help clinicians ensure that patients are safely transferred between episodes of care. This is the first step in a digital journey around moving from paper to electronic, then moving to electronic structured messaging.

It is recommended:

1. You start conversations with your clinical system providers around developing the capability to generate and consume structured Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) messages in the move to using structured messaging.
   o Changes to the NHS Standard Contract in subsequent years are highly likely to reinforce this objective

2. Start discussions with your local clinicians and professional carers around the adoption of the Academy of Royal Medical College headings.
   o Early engagement with your suppliers will collectively indicate that their customers require more sophisticated solutions

3. Plan to incorporate SNOMED CT and dm+d as the preferred national terminologies to share information between organisations.
   o The NIB has an ambition for SNOMED CT to be the only clinical terminology in use in the NHS by 2020

4. The Health and Social Care Information Centre are currently developing a national solution for delivery of messages nationwide. In the short to medium term a replacement for the Data Transfer Service (DTS) will be made available. This will be known as the Messaging Exchange for Health (MESH). The DTS service is planned to be replaced by June 2016. In the longer term the Transaction Messaging Service (TMS) is likely to provide the strategic message exchange capability.

The following information should be considered when planning and developing your strategic roadmap/solution:

- As part of the GP Systems of Choice (GPSoC) contract the GP system suppliers are required to deliver the capability to receive CDA message based discharge summaries directly into the primary care systems. The contractual changes are planned to be available to the service in 2016.

- The proposed strategic delivery methods are:

  Interoperability Toolkit (ITK)
  o ITK Transfer of Care Domain Message Specification
  o ITK Web Services
  o ITK Data Transfer Service (DTS) or its replacement Messaging Exchange for Health (MESH)
  o ITK Transaction messaging Service (TMS)
These are all supported by a HSCIC provided accreditation service. Please note, these are part of the contractual components of the GP SoC contract, and form part of the future interoperability strategy.

5. Transfer of Care Help Desk

If you have any further questions please email information.standards@hscic.gov.uk with the subject line of ‘Transfer of Care’.