Video Transcript

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges headings eDischarge summaries

Transfer of Care Initiative
eHealth week - March 2015
| Video Transcript | So, I guess most of the documents that we’re sending out, are going out electronically at the moment. It would give us a bit of a spur to do it at the trust, which is more paper based but frankly we’re going to do that anyway because we have an ethos of moving away from paper.

I think what is more helpful for us would be to start moving to structured document.

| | This year we’ve actually decided to adopt the standards of the Royal College of Physicians work produced under the academy and now PRSB.

We met last March [2014] as a community of clinical informaticians and CIO’s in the North East and we decided that we wanted to be able send discharge summaries electronically in a timely manner from all of the organisations in the North East.

Now that’s twelve trusts all agreed that they want to do one thing; be able to send a discharge summary electronically to every GP in the North East. |
I think it’s very important in the world of digitisation that we try and give organisations standards to develop against. So, we don’t want five different types of discharge summaries, and discharge summaries in a clinicians mind are quite obvious in terms of the headings.

So, I’m all for standards, I think that we need to nationally encourage that. If PRSB is doing that work we should try and adopt that, it would allow improved integration of systems as well. I have no reservations in recommending standardised headings.

I think the key thing for us, is that any of the standards that come down need to be workable in practice. We’ve seen some of the standards that have been produced in the past and frankly we felt that they weren’t workable on the coalface.

I think one of the encouraging things about these initiatives is that they’ve been road tested with junior doctors so that we can be more confident that when we adopt them that they are sensible, pragmatic and will work in practice.
So the massive benefit of the headings is just that you don’t have to reinvent the wheel locally. You can just adopt the national standard. Okay, it’s not perfect but we can’t let perfect be the enemy of good.