

# Information for clinicians

## Safety Fundamentals - Multidisciplinary Team Rounds



Multidisciplinary Team Rounds (MDT) are a person-centred process with an emphasis on safety which brings together all relevant members of the multidisciplinary health care

team including the patient/carer/advocate. These rounds occur at the point-of-care which is often the bedside. A senior decision-making clinician must be present to ensure decisions are made in real time and the patient's treatment progresses.

During this round, the team, with the patient and (where possible) their family/carer/advocate, discuss and develop a plan of care which is inclusive and patient centred.

Participation in MDT with patient rounds ensures everyone, including the patient, is on the same page. These rounds enable participants to share information based on their expertise. Patient safety concerns are identified and care priorities are established. Daily goal setting, plans for transfer of care and, finally, an action plan is agreed.

This shared decision-making process has the potential to prevent delays in treatment and reduce the risk of adverse events which lead to patient harm.

Units where MDT rounds at the point-of-care are a routine part of practice have demonstrated:

- Reduced length of hospital stay
- Reduction in patient harm
- Improved communication between the health care team
- Enhanced patient and staff experience

### Purpose

- To ensure all members of the team, including the patient, share the same goal
- All disciplines are up to date with the safety risks
- To prevent avoidable errors
- To agree a comprehensive plan of care
- To guarantee a seamless transition of care

### Getting started

1. Partner with patients throughout the planning and testing phases
2. Establish a case for change through data exploration
3. Review current communication processes with the purpose of streamlining to avoid duplication
4. Form a small multidisciplinary team to develop and lead the process change
5. Consult the guidance document
6. Develop a structured approach to conduct the MDT with patient rounds
7. Agree on a timeframe to start testing



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### Structured Approach

All team members need to arrive at the round prepared. Timing the round to follow a handover or Safety Huddle process will ensure that the information shared is the most current.

MDT with patient rounds scheduled early in the day will improve patient care coordination, as necessary investigations or referrals can be ordered or followed-up during business hours on the same day.

An outline of essential items to cover during every patient encounter will help to keep team members focused, ensure key information is shared and reduce the risk that vital information will be missed.

At the end of each round, patients will know the plan for their next transition of care and who to ask for clarification. All team members will be aware of the patient care coordination needs and accountability will be assigned.

### Ideal model

- Same time, daily
- All key disciplines included
- The patient is included
- Observes health literacy
- Structured approach
- Transition of care risks are identified
- Waiting for what is understood
- Accountability assigned

### Safety Fundamentals for Teams

Tools and behaviours to implement or evaluate existing processes which will promote a culture of safety include:

- Safety Huddles
- Leadership WalkArounds
- Quality Learning Boards
- **MDT with Patient Rounds**
- Intentional Rounding
- Morbidity and Mortality Meetings
- Take 2 – Think, Do
- What Matters to Me? (for staff)

Many of the 'Fundamentals' are behaviours which, when used by clinical teams, enhance teamwork and communication and have a positive effect on safety culture.

Teams can prioritise the 'Fundamentals' through using the Team Stripes framework.

Further online information is available at:

<http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/quality-improvement/team-effectiveness/team-stripes>

The CEC Team Effectiveness team assists local health districts and specialty health networks in NSW to enhance teamwork and communication