Outpatient transitions of care are a well-established vulnerability in patient management. A unique transition occurs at the end of a resident’s training, during which primary care patients are reassigned to a graduating resident to a new intern. This presents potential opportunity for adverse events, particularly in high-risk, medically complex patients.

A relative paucity of data exists to guide the handoff of high-risk patients, particularly in higher-risk, medically complex care. Previous handoff interventions in the continuity clinic setting have demonstrated mixed results on patient outcomes. We designed an intervention aimed at improving rates of knowledge of panel ownership and patient safety. This process significantly impacted patient outcomes: lower rate of attrition, lower rate of hospitalization, positive, but non-significant, impact on ED utilization.

In summary, coordination among providers in the interprofessional care team facilitates safe transition of care from a graduating resident to a new intern primary care provider.

REFERENCE