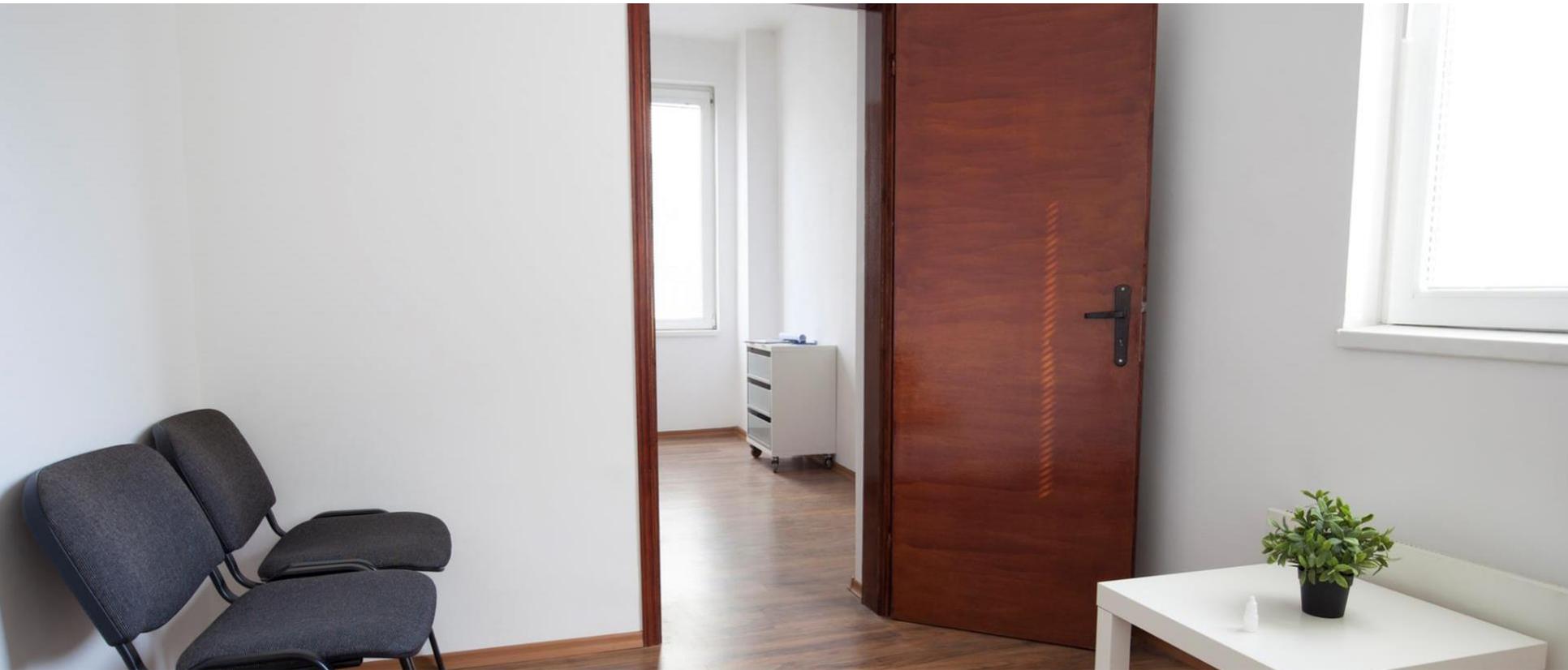


# **Before they go home...**

Informed discharge-lessons from the CMPA



**Dr. Janet Nuth**

Safe Medical Care - Learning, CMPA

McGill Annual Refresher for Family Physicians,

Dec 6, 2022

# Faculty disclosure

**Faculty: Dr. Janet Nuth**

**Employees of: CMPA**

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|---|---------------------------|
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# Land acknowledgement



# Today's Learning Objectives

- Describe professional and legal obligations regarding informed discharge discussions
- Outline best practices when documenting discharge instructions
- Commit to one change in your discharge discussions to improve patient safety and decrease your medico-legal risk





# Inadequate Discharge Instructions



# Discharge instructions

- Symptoms or signs that forewarn of danger or require re-evaluation
- Seeking medical attention
  - Where
  - Urgency of response



Courts acknowledge that patients have certain duties and responsibilities for their own health.



A court decision may be contingent on clarity and quality of the information provided by MD to patient.

# Invariable practice vs documented instructions



Keep it broad...

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better healthcare



... and be specific



# F/U PRN – harder to defend

- Sx to return reviewed-emphasized a,b,c....
- Where to seek care and urgency
- Diagnostic uncertainty
- Questions raised



# Consider a read-back



# Handouts support but don't replace discussion



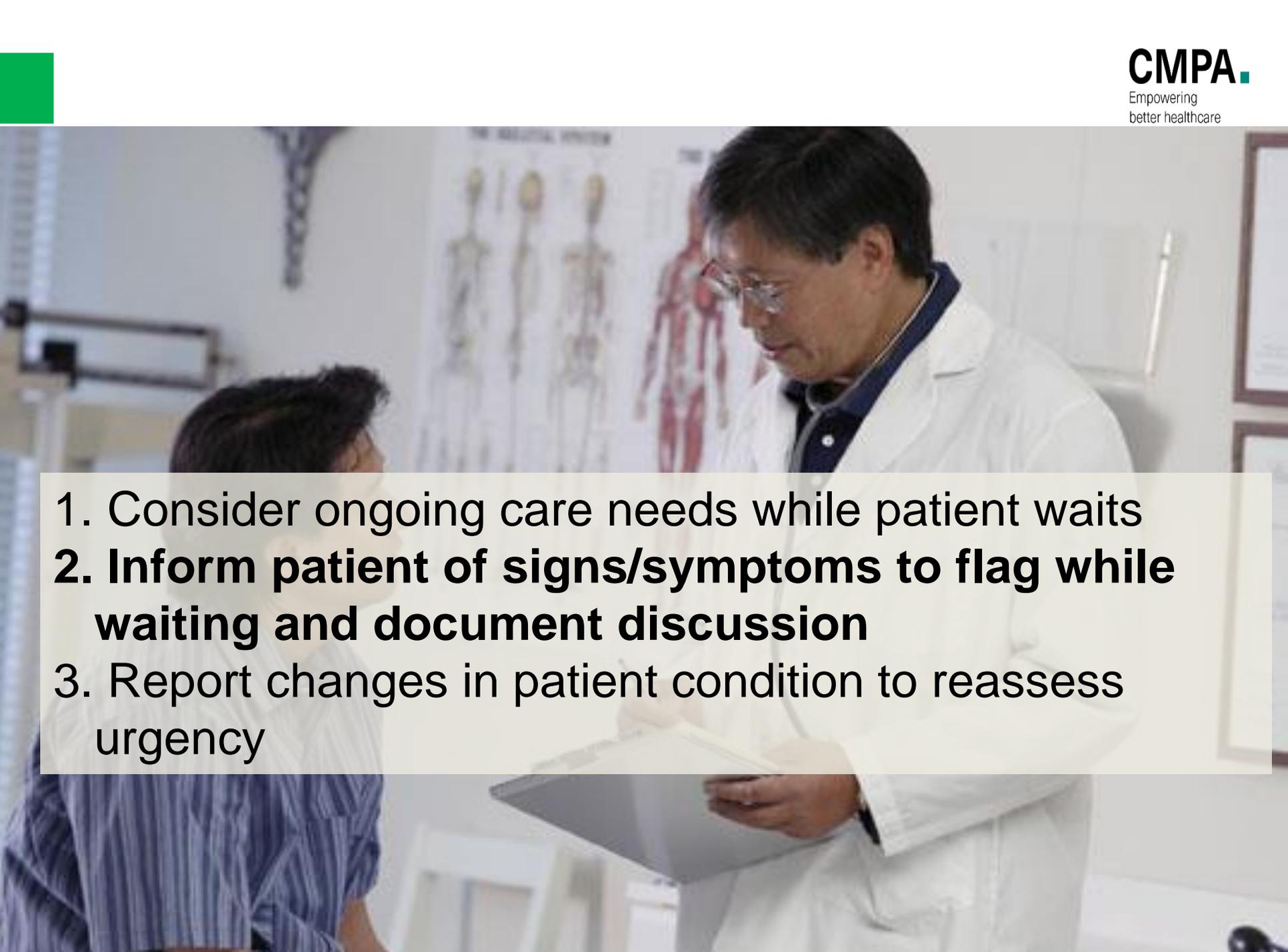
Document  
handout was  
reviewed and any  
questions raised

# Can discharge instructions be delegated?



# Pending investigations/ consults arranged and rationale for doing them



- 
1. Consider ongoing care needs while patient waits
  - 2. Inform patient of signs/symptoms to flag while waiting and document discussion**
  3. Report changes in patient condition to reassess urgency

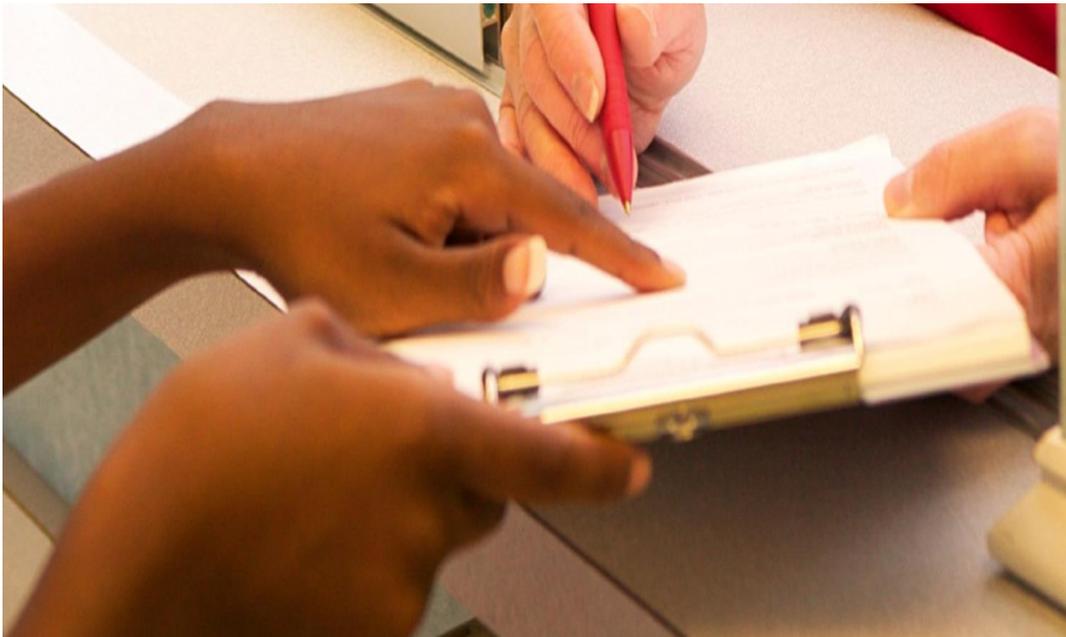


# Leaving against medical advice

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# What if they just sign the form?



This is to certify that I am leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Center at my own insistence and against the advice of my physicians and the Medical Center. \_\_\_\_\_  
I am fully aware of the possible dangers to my life or health from this departure, and I hereby assume the risks and consequences involved and release my physicians and the Medical Center from any liability in connection with my leaving the Medical Center against their advice.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Party Leaving Against Medical Advice \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. / P.M.

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_ IF PARTY DEMANDING DISCHARGE IS OTHER THAN PATIENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Party \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This demand for discharge should be signed by the patient or authorized party if he/she insists on leaving the Medical Center against medical advice. If the patient or authorized party not only demands to leave but also refuses to sign this form documenting his/her demand.

(Name of Party Demanding Discharge) \_\_\_\_\_ has not only demanded discharge but also has refused to sign this form documenting his/her demand.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. / P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Receiving Demand

# Premature discharge



- Assessment of capacity to understand potential consequences
- Read-back if done
- Rationale for recommendations
- Efforts to resolve personal concerns
- Informed refusal
- If consent is obtained-consider involving family/ 2<sup>nd</sup> MD
- Welcome to return for re-evaluation

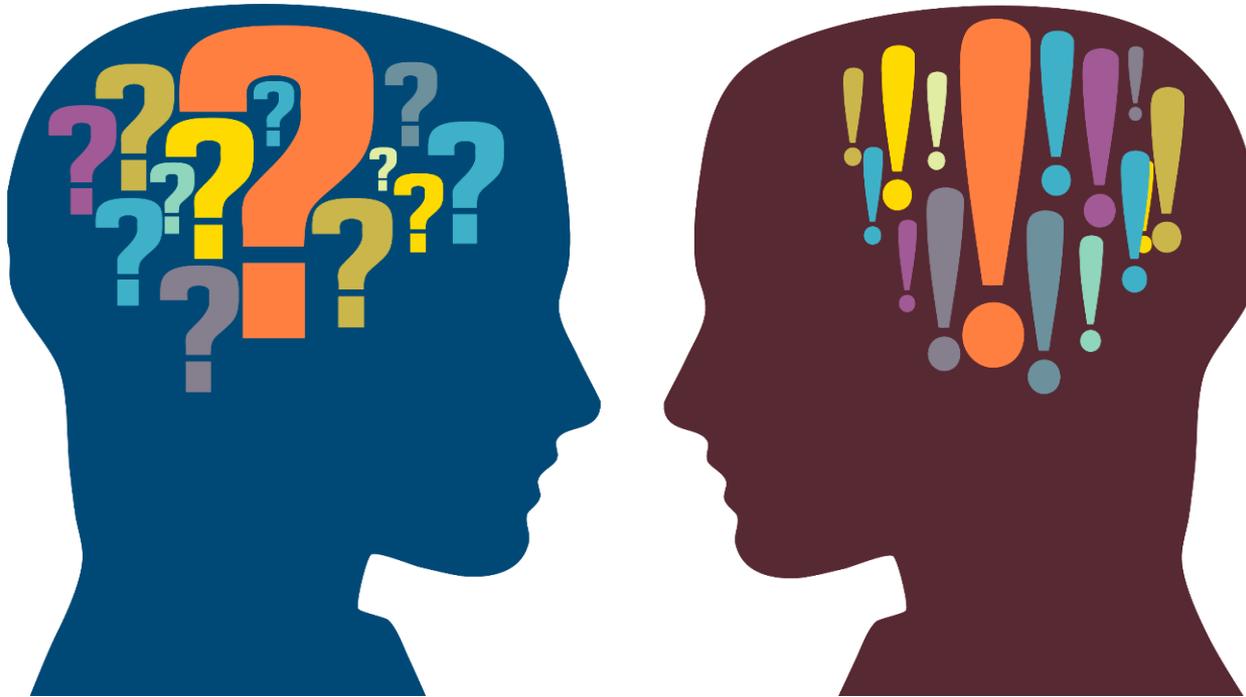
# What about leaving without being seen?



## Take home points

- Informed discharge discussions helps improve patient safety
- Verify patient understanding and take time to answer any questions
- Consider handouts or written instructions to supplement discussions, document review
- Document discussions including signs and symptoms that require reassessment, where to go, urgency of response and informed refusal if applicable

What is 1 area where you can improve your discharge instructions?





## Informed discharge

*1 Mainpro+ credit*

*MOC Section 3 – 0.5 hours (1.5 credits)*

*20 minutes to complete*

*CanMEDS: Communicator, Collaborator*

### **Upon completion, you will be able to**

1. Recognize the importance of an informed discharge discussion to support safe care.
2. Describe your professional and legal obligations when delegating the discharge discussion to other health professionals.
3. Identify special issues to consider when discharging patients.

**Get started**

▼ [Accreditation & disclosure](#)

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[www.cmpa-acpm.ca](http://www.cmpa-acpm.ca)

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