

# Face-to-face handoff doesn't improve patient outcomes

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(HealthDay)—There are no significant improvements in patient outcomes associated with face-to-face handoff of patients admitted to general medical services at a large academic tertiary referral hospital, according to a study published in the March issue of the *Journal of Hospital Medicine*.

Will M. Schouten, M.D., from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and colleagues used a Global Trigger Tool to retrospectively compare [clinical outcomes](#) among 805 patients whose care was transitioned with and without face-to-face handoffs.

The researchers observed no significant difference in the frequency of [rapid response team](#) calls, code team calls, transfers to a higher level of

care, deaths in hospital, length of stay, 30-day readmission rate, or adverse events between patients whose care was transitioned with a face-to-face handoff and those whose care was transitioned without one.

"Additional study is needed to determine the qualities of patient handoff that optimize efficiency and safety," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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