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Discharge Summary Importance

Did you know?

The Discharge Summary is the most important document in the medical record

- The Discharge Summary is **the first document hospital coders review** when they start coding any given hospitalization
- The Discharge Summary is considered **the final diagnostic statement** for the entire hospitalization
 - Please include a **complete list of every diagnosis or medical issue** that impacted your patient's care during their hospitalization
- The Discharge Summary is also **the first document Recovery Auditors review** in their efforts to deny any given hospitalization and remove important diagnoses
 - There should be **no conflicting documentation** between what is contained in the Discharge Summary and what has previously been documented in the rest of the medical record
- Please complete the Discharge Summary **on the day your patient leaves the hospital**
 - **Note:** Important medical information about your patients and additional significant diagnoses are lost to future providers as all memory naturally diminishes with time