

WHAT IS THE "GOLD STANDARD" FOR COMPREHENSIVE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNICATION OF PERIOPERATIVE INFORMATION FOR THYROID CANCER PATIENTS? A COMPARISON OF EXISTING ELECTRONIC TOOLS WITH ATA STANDARDS.

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Background/Purpose: Appropriate management of well-differentiated thyroid cancer requires treating clinicians to have access to critical elements of the patient's presentation, surgical management, postoperative course and pathologic assessment. Electronic health records (EHR) provide an effective method for the storage and transmission of patient information, though there are significant challenges to inter-institutional communication. In 2012, the American Thyroid Association (ATA) published a position paper, *The Essential Elements of Interdisciplinary Communication of Perioperative Information for Patients Undergoing Thyroid Cancer Surgery*, defining critical elements for optimal inter-clinician communication.

We present a comparison of the ATA's essential elements as applied to 3 contemporary reporting systems: the Thyroid Cancer Care Collaborative (TCCC) and synoptic operative reports from Memorial Sloan-Kettering (MSKCC) and the University of Calgary (UC).

Methods: We performed a field by field comparison between each reporting system.

Results: The TCCC fulfills all 127 fields outlined by the ATA and includes an additional 22 fields. The MSKCC and UC systems are purely operative reports, and were compared only to the intraoperative section of the ATA's report. The synoptic operative reports of MSKCC and UC fulfill 16 of 39 and 29 of 39 fields respectively. The MSKCC report expands upon the ATA guidelines with 9 additional fields.

Discussion & Conclusion: The TCCC represents a significant advance as a highly comprehensive HIPAA compliant, inter-institutional tool for perioperative communication. It maximizes efficiency using illustrated modules, clickable anatomical diagrams, and drop down menus. We propose that the TCCC will enhance clinician communication while providing portability of thyroid cancer information for patients.