We developed a web-based, automated tracking system to facilitate patient hand-offs in a multi-site, multi-rotation, academic clinical pathology training program. Transfer of patient care responsibility from one provider to another over weekends carries risks for introducing error, delay, or suboptimal quality of care. Both the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the Joint Commission (TJC) recently mandated that hospitals enact patient care transfer procedures that incorporate both verbal and written communication between the transferring and the receiving physician.

**Methods**

The system is a HIPPA compliant web-based Handoff Portal (MySQL database) that allows entry of patient information every Friday from three hospitals (Moffitt-Long, SFGH, SFV A). Residents from the various clinical pathology services contact the weekend on-call resident by phone, or email if a phone call is not anticipated issues from that service over the weekend.

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**Results**

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**Reasearch Purpose**

To illustrate the process of implementation, the successes, and remaining areas of improvement for hand-offs after developing a web-based hand-off system for clinical pathology residents.

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Compliance with online hand-offs is tracked by the percentage of on-service residents who completed a hand-off or logged “I have no sign out” at the end of each week. “Missed” hand-offs mean no log-in was performed.

**Conclusions**

A web-based tracking system can be used to facilitate transfer of patient care between rotation site and on-call residents as well as meet accreditation requirements. Rotations with few hand-offs (i.e. molecular) had many missed hand-offs. However, we did identify missed hand-offs from more high-risk rotations (i.e. blood banks). Missed hand-offs increased over the course of the study and with higher PGY.

**Limitations**

The website facilitates hand-offs but may not optimize hand-off quality. Feedback from clinical colleagues?

**Future Directions**

Further work necessary to improve hand-off adherence and hand-off quality. Feedback from clinical colleagues?

**Financial Support**

UCSF Department of Laboratory Medicine