

Documentation in Neurosurgery

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Professionals educated in this field are termed documentalists. This field changed its name to information science in 1968, but some uses of the term documentation still exist and there have been efforts to reintroduce the term documentation as a field of study.

Neurosurgical Documentation.

Documentation adherence

Hanrahan et al. aimed to demonstrate how [process mapping](#) can be used to identify reliable areas of documentation in the patient pathway to target structured data entry interventions.

This mixed methods study was conducted in the largest pituitary centre in the UK. Purposive snowball sampling identified frontline stakeholders for process mapping to produce a patient pathway. The final patient pathway was subsequently validated against a real-world dataset of 50 patients who underwent surgery for pituitary adenoma. Events were categorized by frequency and mapped to the patient pathway to determine critical data points.

Eighteen stakeholders encompassing all members of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) were consulted for process mapping. The commonest events recorded were neurosurgical ward round entries (N = 212, 14.7%), pituitary clinical nurse specialist (CNS) ward round entries (N = 88, 6.12%) and pituitary MDT treatment decisions (N = 88, 6.12%) representing critical data points. Operation notes and neurosurgical ward round entries were present for every patient. 43/44 (97.7%) had a pre-operative pituitary MDT entry, pre-operative clinic letter, a post-operative clinic letter, an admission clerking

entry, a discharge summary, and a post-operative histopathology pituitary multidisciplinary (MDT) team entries.

This is the first study to produce a validated patient pathway of patients undergoing pituitary surgery, serving as a comparison to optimise this patient pathway. They have identified salient targets for structured data entry interventions, including mandatory datapoints seen in every [admission](#) and have also identified areas to improve [documentation adherence](#), both of which support movement towards automation ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Hanrahan JG, Carter AW, Khan DZ, Funnell JP, Williams SC, Dorward NL, Baldeweg SE, Marcus HJ. Process analysis of the patient pathway for automated data collection: an exemplar using pituitary surgery. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne)*. 2024 Jan 12;14:1188870. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2023.1188870. PMID: 38283749; PMCID: PMC10811105.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 03:00**

