



COMPLIANCE E-NEWS



RADICAL Survival Tips and Reminders For EPIC Inpatient Implementation

The SLU Compliance Department recommends the following to provide excellent electronic clinical documentation and successful reimbursement for inpatient services:

R – Rules and Regulations are the same – Documentation requirements for electronic medical records are the same as those for paper records. Notes must be complete, accurate and authenticated. Medical students may document in medical records but utilization of their documentation for linking and billing purposes is limited. As such, Attending/Teaching Physicians and Residents must perform and document the HPI, Exam and Medical Decision Making. For billing purposes, the only Medical Student documentation that may be counted is the Review of Systems (ROS) and Past, Family and Social History (PFSH).

A – Attestation Documentation for Attending/Teaching Physicians (TP) – EPIC provides a number of ways for TPs to document joint service with Residents and Fellows. The attestation must be documented/added **by the TP** and must include: a linking statement; indication of the TP's review of the Resident documentation and findings - usually a statement "confirm" or "revise"; and at least one comment addressing each of the 3 key elements of service – history, exam, medical decision making. Procedures (bedside and operative) require the TP to personally document personal presence.

D – Delete- a valuable tool and essential function. EPIC provides numerous documentation tools & macros that pre-populate clinical documentation fields with negative/normal/historical findings or information. The Review of Systems, Exam, Problem List, etc are examples of documentation sections that may be pre-populated. It is essential to pay careful attention to this text and ensure that it is honest, accurate and up to date. **If it is not accurate, pertinent, or you did not obtain or perform aspects of the pre-populated text, delete or correct it.**

I – Identify – who wrote what and when. Utilize signature, date and time text tools. For Interns (PGY I's), identify the upper level resident or attending physician providing direct supervision for all notes by utilizing the smart text (.PGY) and adding the supervisor's name in the wildcard (***) area.

C – Cards, tickets and forms- billing for inpatient services will NOT interface (at this time) to the SLUCare IDX/GE billing system. Continue your standard department billing process to capture charges for consults, initial hospital visits, daily hospital visits, critical care, etc. by submitting billing cards, encounter forms, or other paper documents if your department does not have dedicated inpatient chart abstractors/coders.

A – Avoid electronic documentation pitfalls and temptations – Copy, Paste, Copy Forward functionality should only be used by the original author. Do NOT copy/paste another person's documentation.

- Documentation Clutter – more is not necessarily better. Copying labs, test results, scores of historical data on daily notes is often problematic for clinicians seeking pertinent, focused information and recommendations. Best practice is to comment on results and implications for data that is current and pertinent.
- Cloning – each note should indicate or reflect the current (for a particular date and time) condition and care of a patient. Documentation that is exactly the same for multiple dates or encounters may be considered 'cloned' and may put medical necessity for services and reimbursement in question.
- Macro & Template Fatigue – exercise caution when documenting or reviewing electronic record documentation. It is easy to auto document, review or interpret information in a desensitized or automatic fashion which may lead to errors, omissions and inaccuracies.

L – Learn efficient, effective, accurate and compliant EPIC behaviors. Utilize available resources such as your Department's physician Epic advisors/experts; super users; and billing/ coding staff. Additional resources include the Epic Team; the SLU Help Desk (977-4000, extension 4) and the SLU Compliance Department at 977-5545 or slucompliance@slu.edu.