

## **Medical Student Documentation**

A medical student examines the patient prior to the physician. The student documents the history of present illness, exam and medical decision making. The teaching physician enters the exam room and performs his own exam and medical decision making. After speaking with the student and reading the student's documentation the physician agrees with the student's assessment and plan. He signs his name at the bottom of the student's note and then sends the charge off to the billing office. According to documentation and coding guidelines, would the above scenario be a billable service?

Answer: No

### ***E/M Documentation Provided by Students***

Any contribution and participation of a student to the performance of a billable service (other than the review of systems and/or past family/social history which are not separately billable, but are taken as part of an E/M service) must be performed in the physical presence of a teaching physician or physical presence of a resident. Students may document services in the medical record. However, the documentation of an E/M service by a student that may be referred to by the teaching physician is limited to documentation related to the review of systems and/or past family/social history. The teaching physician may not refer to a student's documentation of physical exam findings or medical decision making in his or her personal note. If the medical student documents E/M services, the teaching physician must verify and redocument the history of present illness as well as perform and redocument the physical exam and medical decision making activities of the service.