

### Monthly Compliance Quandary:

Dr. Smith is a Resident who is seeing patients for Dr. Jones, the attending physician. He has examined each patient and has written detailed notes to include examination, tests results and future testing. He has documented the date and time of each encounter. Dr. Jones comes to the hospital and visits each patient and reviews the documentation that Dr. Smith has documented, writes his comments and corrections of his findings next to Dr. Smith's notes and writes "Agree with above."

Is this proper documentation for teaching guidelines? What should Dr. Jones write?

### Things to consider.....

Dr. Jones is billing for the professional services that he has provided to his patients and will be reimbursed substantiated by the documentation of the resident. However, Dr. Jones must document that he personally examined the patient, read the documentation, and agrees with the plan of care provided by the Resident. Documentation of the Resident and Physician combined must meet the level of service, and show physical presence for this to be a billable service.

Dr. Jones must make his corrections to the resident note. He must date and time his examination of the patient and write a statement that confirms he personally evaluated the patient and agrees with the plan of care documented by the resident.

The following is an acceptable statement to adequately document the involvement of the teaching physician:

***"I saw and evaluated the patient with the resident and agree with plan of care as documented by the resident."***