

**Scenario:** A resident sees the patient in the Emergency Room. The resident performs the required elements of the initial hospital care service in the absence of the teaching physician and documents his/her service and calls the teaching physician. The resident receives admitting orders by phone. The patient is admitted on day one shortly before midnight. The teaching physician does not see the patient until day two.

**Quandary:** Can the teaching physician use the admission date as the initial hospital care date of service (DOS) even though the teaching physician did not see the patient until day two?

**Response:** No. The teaching physician must bill the service for the date on which he or she performs it. In this instance, the teaching physician must document that he/she personally saw the patient, personally performed critical or key portions of the service, and participated in the management of the patient. In the above scenario, this occurs on day two and therefore the date of service is the second day. The teaching physician's note may reference the resident's note, in which case the composite of the teaching physician's entry and the resident's entry together must support the medical necessity of the billed service and the level of the service billed by the teaching physician."