

## CONSULT VS TRANSFER OF CARE

***Patient's family physician notes a mass on the patient's neck. Physician sends the patient to a general surgeon for advice and management. The surgeon examines the patient and decides to perform a biopsy. The biopsy is benign, but the surgeon makes the decision to remove the mass due to the location. Surgery was scheduled. How should the care of the surgeon be coded? As Consultation or Transfer of care?***

If you chose a Transfer of Care, you were correct. Even though the physician sent the patient to the surgeon for his advice, the surgeon took over the care of the patient's medical condition making this a Transfer of Care.

**Consultation** service is when a physician is asking another physician for advice, opinion, recommendation and suggestion in evaluating or treating a patient due to the expertise in their specific medical area.

**Transfer of care** occurs when a physician requests another physician to take over the responsibility of the complete care of a particular condition.

Remember, as of January 2010 Medicare eliminated consult codes. Please verify patient's insurance prior to choosing your codes.

Happy Coding!