

DOCUMENTATION TIPS

Here are some examples of **acceptable** minimal documentation by teaching physicians.

SITUATION: The teaching physician performs all the required elements of an E/M service without a resident (there may or may not be a resident's note to reference):

- **Admitting note:** "I performed a history and physical examination of the patient and discussed his management with the resident. I reviewed the resident's note and agree with the documented finding and plan of care."
- **Follow-up visit:** "Hospital day #3. I saw and evaluated the patient. I agree with the findings and plan of care documented in the resident's note."
- **Follow-up note:** "Hospital day #5. I saw and examined the patient. I agree with the resident's note except the heart murmur is louder, so I will obtain an echo to evaluate."

Here are some examples of **unacceptable** minimal documentation by teaching physicians.

- "Agree with above," followed by legible countersignature or identity
- "Rounded, reviewed, agree," followed by legible countersignature or identity
- "Discussed with resident. Agree," followed by legible countersignature or identity
- "Seen and agree," followed by legible countersignature or identity
- "Patient seen and evaluated," followed by legible countersignature or identity
- a legible countersignature or identity alone