

Understanding Your Audience is Vital in Documenting an Initial Visit

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Documentation for an initial visit or new episode shouldn't take all day! But how do you know what is too much and what isn't enough? With increased regulations and policies, your documentation can take more time than the time spent with the patient. We all know that more patient visits equal increased revenue and feeling like you must write the next best-selling novel only keeps you from reaching your fullest potential. Knowing your audience will often guide you through the level of documentation needed. Many offices fail to understand that documentation plays one of the most critical roles in their practice finances. We hear it all the time, "I don't have a problem with my documentation; I am getting paid for everything I am doing." But we wonder if they have looked to make sure.

We'll identify which missing components can become critical issues for your practice, along with the steps you can take immediately to better communicate through documentation to provide better protection for your practice and your patients.

Learning points include:

- Learn to identify payer requirements as part of your documentation standards
- Identify and apply concepts that differentiate types of initial visits- new patients and updated episodes
- Produce documentation of initial visits that comply with the Medicare requirements for chiropractors
- Summarize documentation requirements as they apply to the new initial Evaluation and Management guidelines set forth January 1, 2021
- Establish medical necessity for your care and know with surety that initial visit documentation is complete
- Explain and apply Medicare's PART process of examination to document the presence of a subluxation
- Rank complicating factors and contraindications according to priority and include with initial assessment
- Populate a required treatment plan for care, whether for short- or longer-term care
- Reproduce initial visit documentation properly for new episodes of care as well as new conditions