

## Precepting Medical Students - Medicare Documentation Guidelines

When precepting a medical student, the teaching physician may use any portion of the student's documentation to support professional billing of an evaluation and management service when the following criteria are met:

1. Teaching physician or resident must be **physically present** for "any contribution and participation of a medical student to the performance of a billable service" other than the history.
2. Teaching physician must **verify** in the record "all medical student documentation or findings of the evaluation and management service being billed."
3. Teaching physician must **personally perform** the **physical exam** and **medical decision making activities** of the evaluation and management service being billed.
4. Teaching physician must **attest** to performing the requirements listed above by using the eRecord smart phrase (.MSATTEST)

\*\*\* Billing level must be based on the work personally performed and verified by the teaching physician, not the extent of the medical student's note. Physical exam components counted towards the billable level of service must be medically necessary to address the patient's chief complaint and history. Medical necessity is the overarching criterion, in addition to E&M code requirements in determining the billable level of service.

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- Teaching physician is the attending physician who is billing for the encounter and supervising the medical student.
- Guidelines apply to medical students only. APP students do not qualify.
- Guidelines apply to evaluation and management (E&M) services only. Diagnostic or therapeutic services do not apply.
- Teaching physician guidelines for residents do not apply when working with medical students.
- Residents may not copy & paste (stack) medical student documentation into their own notes. Teaching physician guidelines may not be applied to resident notes that incorporate medical student documentation.
- Residents may write an addendum to a medical student's note, but the teaching physician must attest to the medical student documentation.
- The approved medical student attestation is available in eRecord by using smart phrase (.MSATTEST)

*For any billing questions, please call Compliance at 275-1609.  
Confidentially report improper, unethical or noncompliant activities to 756-8888.*

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