

LW Consulting, Inc.

CodingAlert

Coding & Audit Pitfalls:
Best Practices to Avoid Compliance Issues

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DATES OF SERVICE	PROCEDURE CODE	
05/21/10-05/21/10	82272	PU
05/21/10-05/21/10	94010	PULMO
05/21/10-05/21/10	94375	CARDIOVASCULAR SE
05/21/10-05/21/10	93000	VENIPUNCTURE
05/21/10-05/21/10	36410	

Are Your Medical Records Cloned?

Now that more medical practices and health care facilities are utilizing electronic medical records (EMRs), regulators are finding that many records look identical in wording and elements. This can be cause for suspicion, leading to audits and claim denials. Are your medical records cloned? You should be on the look out for these documentation shortcuts and avoid them at all costs.

E/M Tip: Cloning Medical Records

Documentation Shortcuts

Copy and Paste

The copy and paste method is also known as cut and paste, copy or pulling forward information from pre-vious visits. This could lead to upcoding.

Templates

Templates make sue of pre-defined text and/or text options to document within a note.

Macros

Macros are rules or patterns used to fill in information that auto-populates text using specific key-strokes, abbreviations or drop-down boxes.

So What's the Big Deal?

The problem with this practice is that potential erroneous information may be placed in the patient's chart—for example "he's" turn into "she's", pedal pulses are found on double amputees, etc. This can place providers at risk for monetary retractions and expose them to potential other government actions, including liability under the Federal False Claims Act.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has an "Electronic Records Toolkit" which explains Federal definitions, violations and specific concerns regarding the practice of cloning. Visit www.cms.gov to learn more.

Remember: Each medical record entry document must be specific to the beneficiary and date of service rendered. If not careful, cloning of documentation may result in inaccurate medical record documentation which can result in significant liability.

Contact [LW Consulting, Inc.](http://www.LW-Consult.com) to assist you with minimizing costly medical billing and coding errors, it's important to stay up to date on the requirements.

To inquire about coding education, medical record documentation or compliance auditing, contact Rob Senska by calling 609-249-3819 or email RSenska@LW-Consult.com.

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