

# **PATIENT CARE DOCUMENTATION IN ATHLETIC TRAINING: A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PERSPECTIVE**

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**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Athletic Training**

# Disclosures

No conflict of interests and views are my own

Not the views of my colleagues or Temple University

Use your own discretion- this is not legal advice to you.

# As a result of this session, you will be able to:

ATHLETIC TRAINING

1. Identify common mistakes within you own medical documentation.
2. Evaluate your own medical documentation through chart auditing
3. Determine and implement a plan for bettering documentation through quality improvement



The Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Training documented the incident in Presagia as follows:

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The Head Football Athletic Trainer documented the incident in Pressagia as well as written documentation:

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The second Assistant Athletic Trainer reported from written documentation:

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A large, irregular red ink splatter or blotch occupies the left side of the image, extending from the top left towards the center. It has a textured, painterly appearance with various shades of red and some darker spots. The text 'Reframing our Thinking' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font within this red area.

# Reframing our Thinking

When we stop thinking of medical documentation as something *in addition* to our patient care rather than *part* of our patient care our habits and attitudes will simultaneously change.

# Top Priority: Patient Centered Care

The National Academy of Medicine (Former Institute of Medicine) defines **patient-centered care** as:

“Providing **care** that is respectful of, and responsive to, individual **patient** preferences, needs and values, and ensuring that **patient** values guide all clinical decisions.” This approach requires a true partnership between individuals and their healthcare

# Risk Management

If it is not written down, it didn't happen!



Risk to the patient



Risk to the health care provider

# Change in Patient Status

Any **unexpected changes or deviations from the expected result** should be documented in the interim and include appropriate follow-up documentation. **When an AT provides any service, evaluation, consultation, subjective and/or objective measurement of a status change**, the specifics of the service provided or action taken, and the short/long-term plan would need to be documented.

- *Best Practice Guidelines for Athletic Training Documentation 2017*



So, How Do I Improve My Medical Documentation?- QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT

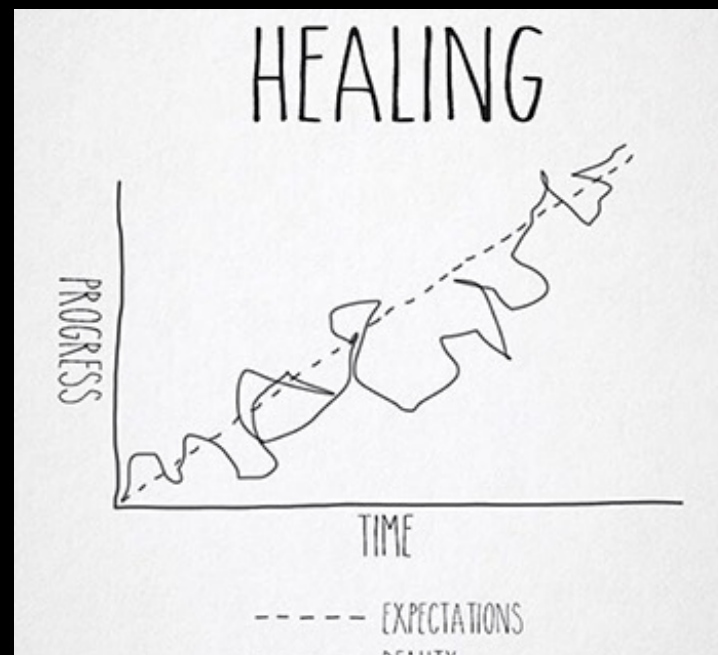
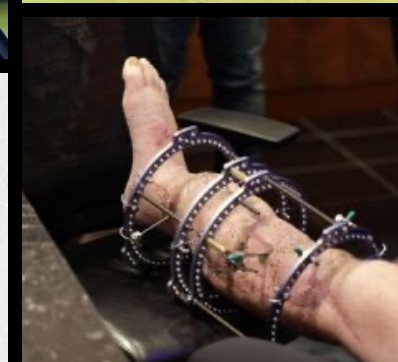
# What is Improvement?

**How it started**



**How it ended**





Along the Way

# Accreditation Standards

Core Competencies: Quality Improvement

**Standard 63 Use systems of **quality assurance** and **quality improvement** to enhance client/patient care.**

What is  
Quality  
Assurance?





## So, What is Quality Improvement?

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- Quality improvement (QI) is a systematic, formal approach to the analysis of practice performance and efforts to improve performance.

6,280,000



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# Documentation- In Any Platform

- Participants indicated that they always (45.7%,  $n = 478/1046$ ) or very frequently (39.0%,  $n = 408/1046$ ) documented their patient care.
- However, many ATs stated that they occasionally (10.8%,  $n = 113/1046$ ), rarely (1.9%,  $n = 20/1046$ ), very rarely (1.5%,  $n = 16/1046$ ), or never (1.1%,  $n = 11/1046$ ) documented their patient care.

# Documentation Fast Facts

- Electronic documentation (36.6%, n = 380/1038)
- Documented to demonstrate their value to stakeholders (32.1%, n = 338/1053)
- Bill for care or reimbursement (3.1%, n = 33/1053)

20%

**LET'S START OVER....AND  
MAKE IT POSITIVE**

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UNLEARNING & GROWTH MINDSET



# How Do I Start QI in Medical Documentation?

# Why do we need to know our systems?

It is important to know what is in existence

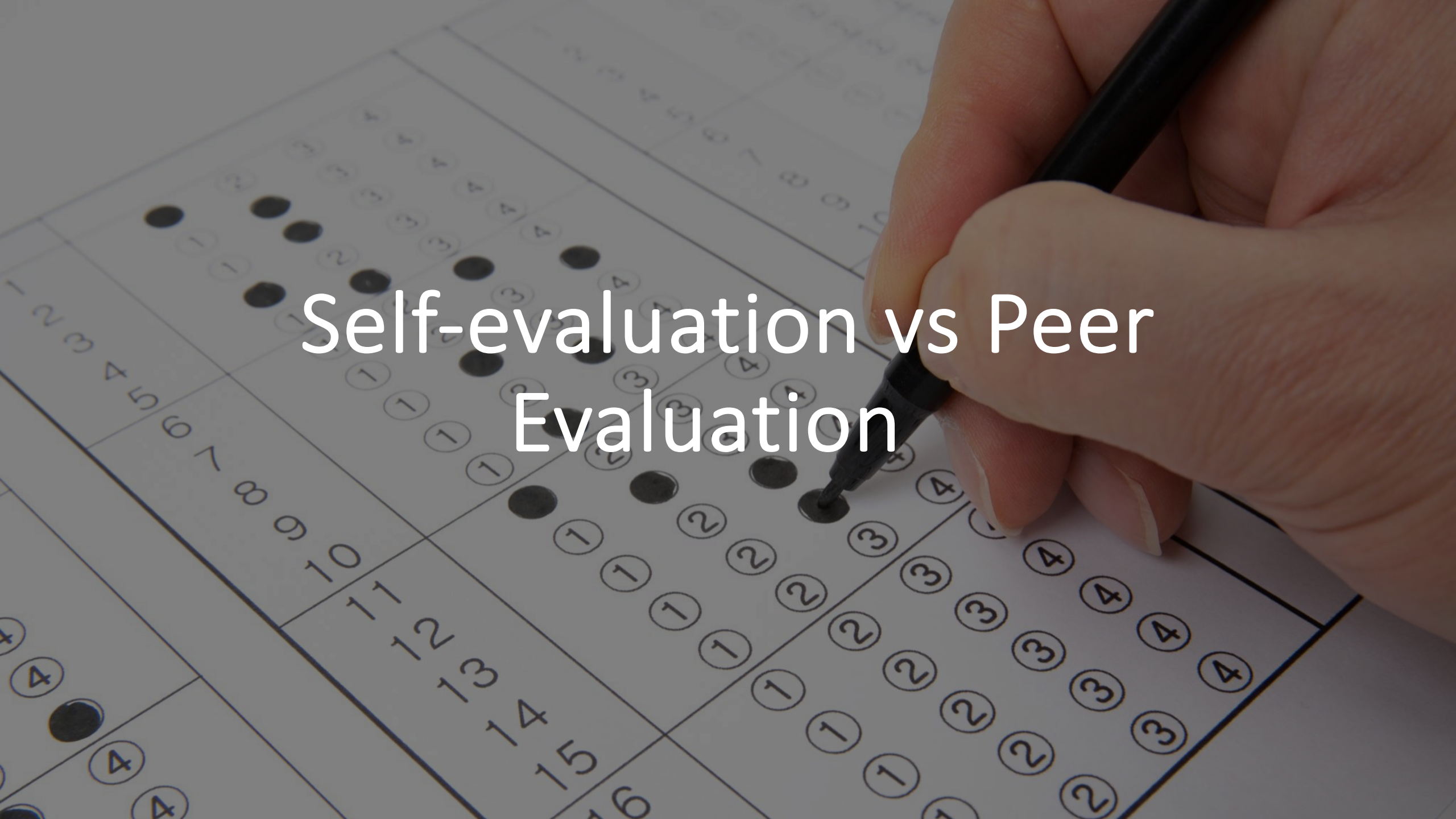
- What is currently being done?
- How is it being done?
- Where are the gaps?

# Chart Reviews in Athletic Training

## Initial Evaluation

TASK	YES or N/A	NO
<i>Intake Paperwork/Subjective Measures</i>		
MD order with specific diagnosis, signed, and dated		
Medical history		
Medications listed		
Date of injury onset listed		
Patient's specific functional limitations noted		
Patient's previous level of function listed		
Patient's societal role listed		
Patient's goal(s) listed		
MD/work restrictions indicated		
MD precautions listed		
<i>Objective</i>		
Functional limitations measured (numbers)		
Work/task requirements described quantitatively		
<i>Assessment</i>		
Athletic training diagnosis		
Impairments related to functional limitations		
Prognoses		
Patient barriers listed, if applicable		
Assessment clearly demonstrates patient's need for rehab		

# Self-evaluation vs Peer Evaluation

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a black pen, filling out a self-evaluation form. The form is a grid with numbers 1 through 16 in the left column and numbers 1 through 10 in the top row. Each cell contains a circled number. Some cells are already filled with black ink, while others are empty. The hand is currently filling in the cell for number 10 in the top row. The text 'Self-evaluation vs Peer Evaluation' is overlaid in the center of the image.



# What Do I Do with this Information?

- SWOT Analysis --> TOWS
  - What are the biggest areas of deficit?
- Determine what is most important for you/your patient care.
- What is realistically manageable for you over this time frame?

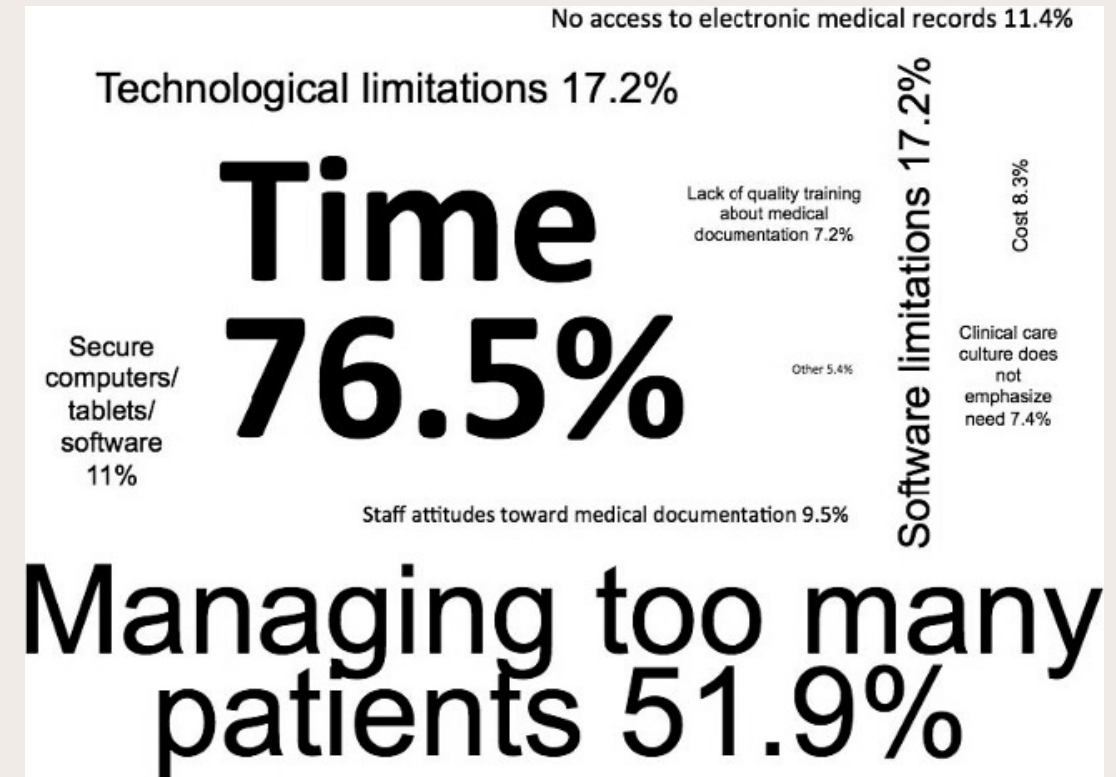
# Barriers to Documentation

Lack of Time

Lack of Accountability

Inadequate Facility Resources

Lack of Personnel



# Let's Do it!- Create Your Aim Statement

- In the next 2 weeks, 100% of the time I will add *[2 components that are missing from my medical documentation]* in my medical documentation.

2 things, 2 weeks



Sometimes Things Will  
Go Well

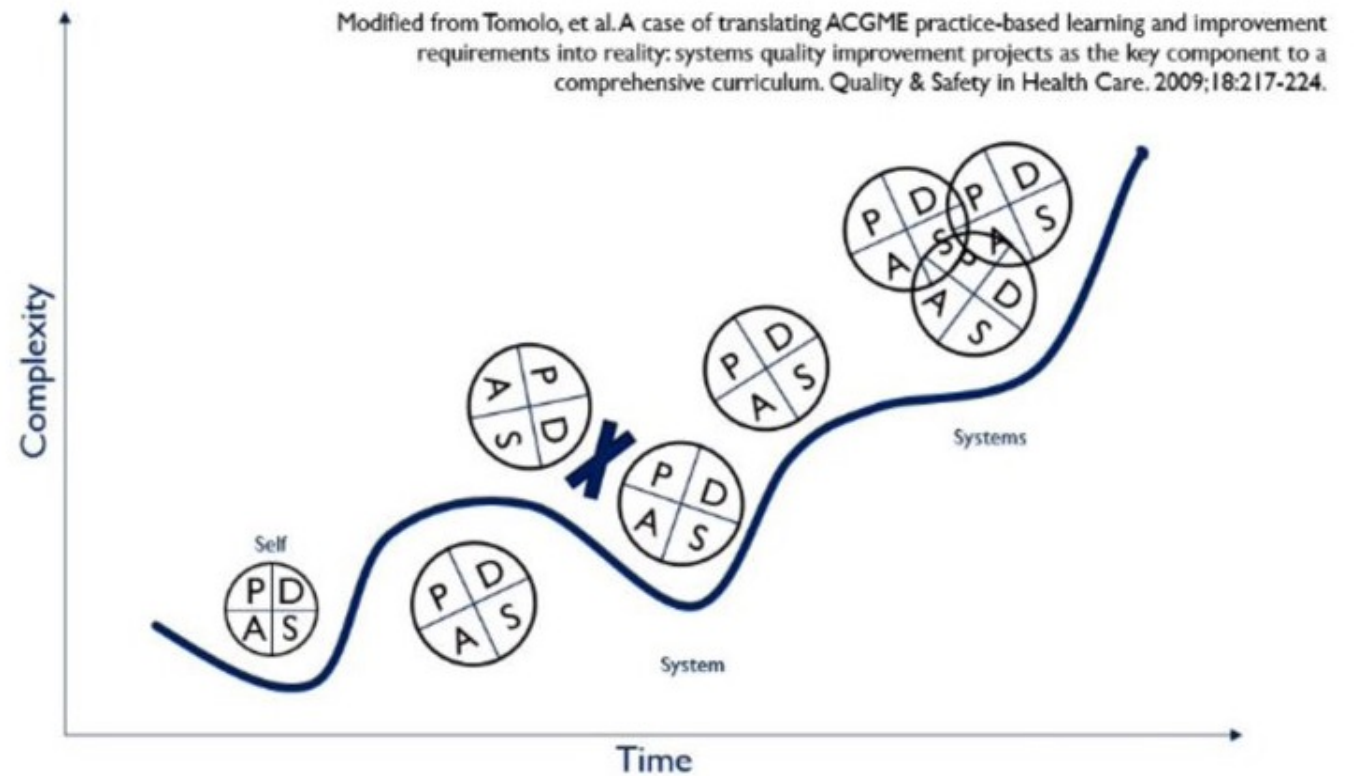
**IT'S FINE**



# What are Some Common Areas of Improvement?

Construct of Chart Review	Percentage in four-week follow-up
Specific modality info listed, if applicable including treatment parameters	50.00%
Modifications to treatment plan are listed	50.00%
All SOAP sections filled in	50.00%
MD/AT order with specific diagnosis, signed, and dated	45.45%
Medications listed	45.45%
Patient's societal role listed. This information can include but is not limited to daily living/ and other information dependent on the patient.	45.45%
Prognoses	45.45%
Work/task requirements described quantitatively	45.45%
Impairment addressed in every goal	45.45%
One item reassessed every visit as necessary	45.45%
Treatment time listed in minutes	40.00%
Frequency of visits	36.36%
Specific, functional task listed in every goal	36.36%
Goals are quantifiable/measurable	36.36%
Objective criteria and assessment on decision for return to activity/activities of daily living	27.27%
All entries signed with legal credential and dated	25.25%
Goals for every 2 to 3 weeks of rehab	18.18%
Time deadline for every goal	18.18%
Cancelled and no show appointments listed with dates	0.00%

# Now What?



**Figure 1.** Translation of Individual PDA Cycles to Systems-Level Approach

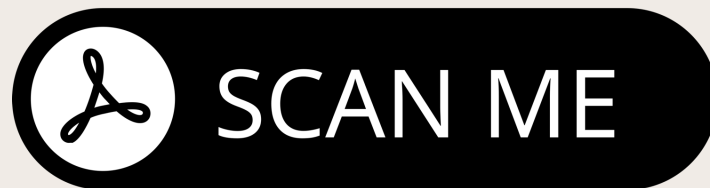
<http://clinat.indstate.edu/index.php/clinat/article/view/101/56>

# Who is your role model?

Upwards of **60% to 90%** of health care students stated that role models shaped their professional attitudes and behaviors and that the learning affected them at a greater impact than lecture only

**What are you actually modeling to those around you?**

# Click Here for the Chart Review!



# Let's Practice Together

██████ reported to campus this fall about 8 months post- surgery. She has participated well with slight modifications in the weight room and fully in softball related activities. She has been restricted from cleans in the weight room and has modified grips for any upper body CKC activities. She wears a wrist widget during practices and a brace she found and likes from CVS during lifts. She does **US or Premod/Ice 1/x and joint mobs** to maintain her motion and pain management. She still feels a **little restricted with full wrist extension**, but I explained that may be normal now as a slight post-surgical change.

# Trust the Process



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# Questions?

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# References

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# Additional Slides

- In the slides following, there is a lot of information on the foundations of medical documentation in athletic training. This is information that so often I am told that people truly do not know the basics. Please feel free to look through the information and find what is needed for you!

# Types of Medical Documentation

Initial Note

Progress Note

Discharge Note

# Purpose of Medical Documentation

Provision of an accurate, thorough medical record

Communication with referral source (physician)

Communication with other parties involved with the patient

Communication with coworkers

Continuity of care

Protection from liability litigation

If not document “interaction never occurred”

Show our worth as athletic trainers

# Common errors

Failure to include the visit number (visits actually attended)

Failure to list the treatment time listed in minutes

Failure to sign and date all entries

Failure to document all treatment modalities and procedures used

Failure to reassess objective data and goals

Lack of skilled assessment every visit

Use of nondiagnostic, nontherapeutic, routine, repetitive, and reinforcing procedures without evidence of skilled feedback

# Patient Encounters

“A patient encounter is defined here **as any interaction with a patient when an athletic training service is provided** or a communication occurs regarding their health status. **Communication regarding a patient’s status** may include, but is not limited to, written, verbal, or electronic communication with any individual or entity.”

- *Best Practice Guidelines for Athletic Training Documentation 2017*

# Progress notes

Must be completed every patient interaction/visit

Abbreviated SOAP note

Changes in pain, limitations, and patient comments

Treatments provided, reassessment performed

Home program response, progress towards goals

Interventions for next visit, assessment of goals

*All communications documented (all modes including fax, email, text, etc) and understanding of communication*

Cancelled appointments

Changes in work or participation status

# Discharge notes

Must be included for every patient

Must happen for re-injury

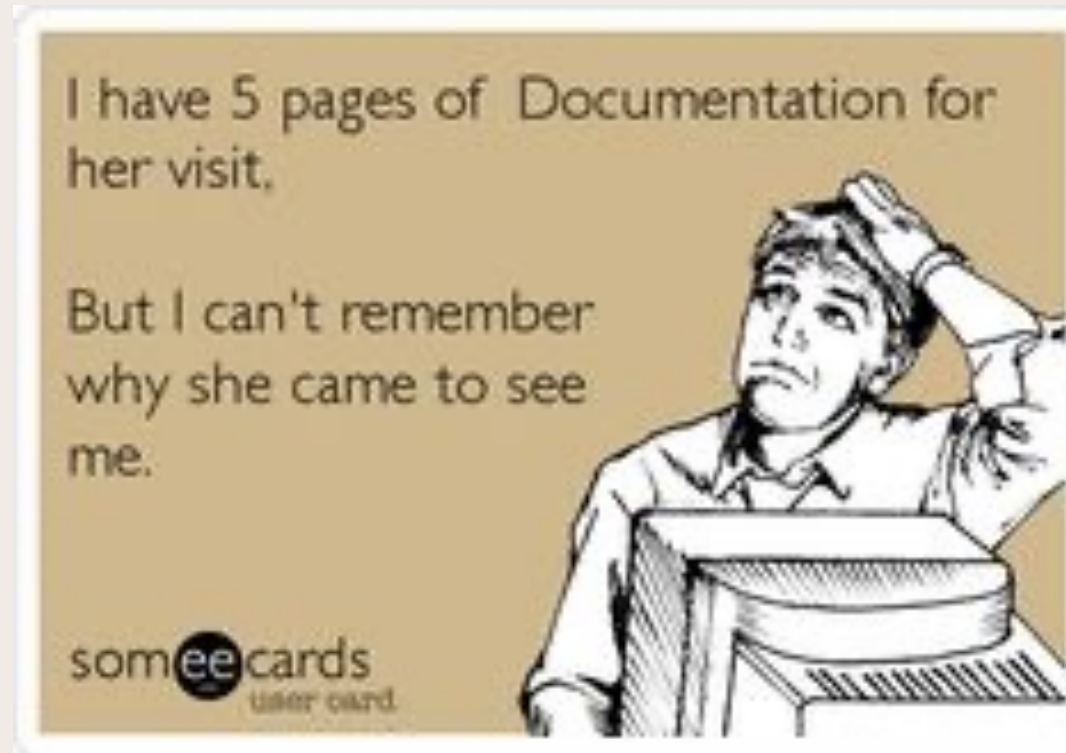
Date of discharge

Reason for discharge

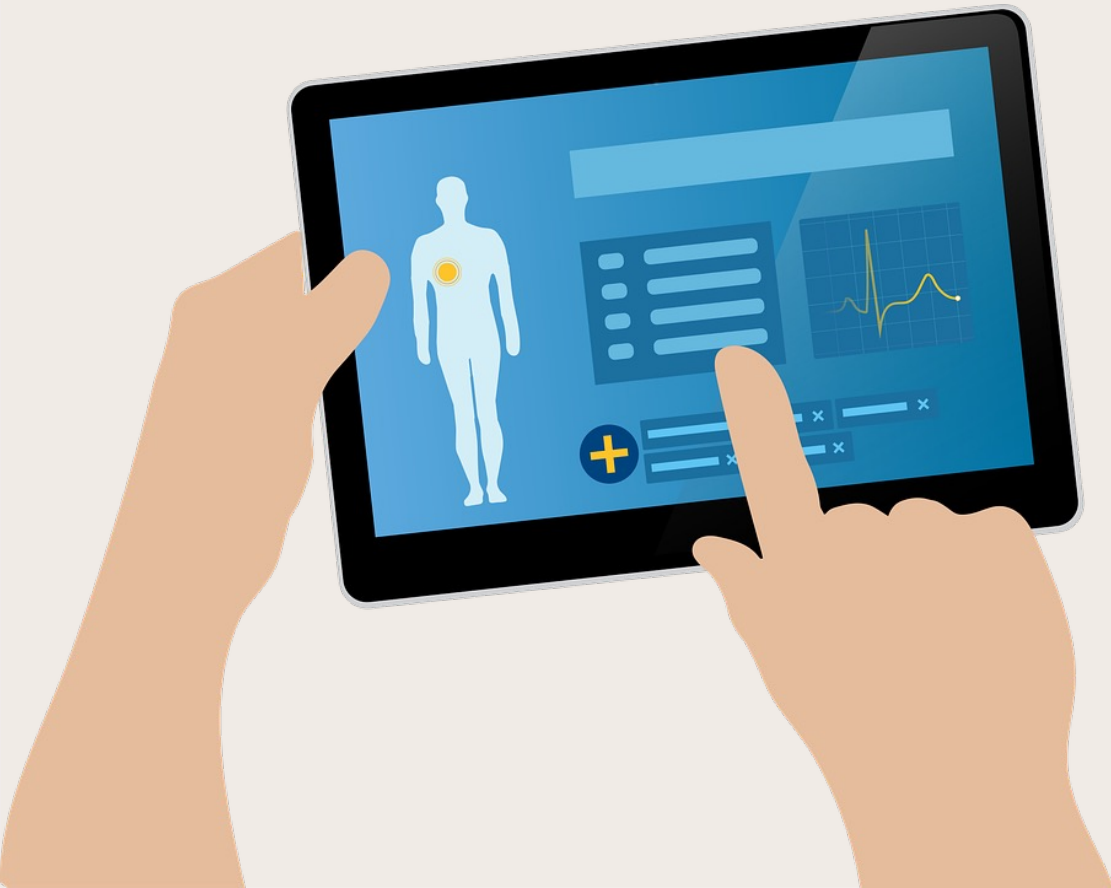
Patient Current Status

Sign

Date



# Medical Documentation Mandates



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-2009

Required that as of January 1, 2014 all public and private healthcare providers must have electronic health records in order to maintain existing Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement levels.