

## PEARLS for Documenting Medical Decision Making (MDM)

### Well documented MDM is “KEY”:

1. In determining the Evaluation and Management (EM) Visit Level coded &
2. To support “Medically Necessary Services” &
3. To provide complete and accurate records for other health providers delivering care to the same patient.

### Amount and/or Complexity of Data Reviewed:

- **Order/Retrieve and Review of Old Records:** Document in HPI/Plan/MDM the summarization of what you reviewed. Examples: Old records: Reviewed plan of care/treatment plan for 10-1-15 and 11-2-15 or Old Records: Compare prior chest X-Ray of 10-5-15 with no changes.
- **Independent visualization of Image:** Document “Interpreted by me” when you look at your films and include your interpretation. Example: Chest X-Ray: Negative for pneumonia.
- **If Image is interpreted by radiologist or discussed with radiologist:** Document “Reviewed by me” & “Interpreted by/Discussed with” radiologist PLUS one finding.
- **Independent visualization of EKG:** Document “EP Interp” and include at least 1 finding\*\*\*: Rhythm, Axis Interval, QRST wave comments, Rate, Acute chronic changes, comparison with most recent tracing or clinical findings and/or diagnosis.
- **Additional History from Someone other than the patient:** Document identity of individual(s) in HPI/Plan/MDM & info obtained.
- **Discussion/Consultations with another health care provider(s):** Document identity of individual(s) in Plan/MDM and overview of discussion.
- **Labs/Diagnostic Tests:** Document pertinent positives in Plan/MDM.
- **Pulse Oximetry:** Document numerical result room air or supplemental oxygen and interpretation. Normal or Hypoxic when clinically indicated. Example: “Pulse Ox Interp by me: 98% ra- Normal.” Important to document when respiratory or cardiac related.
- **Differential Diagnoses** to help support medical necessity.
- **Repeat Examinations:** Document is problem improving/resolving or worsening/failing to change as expected.

### Questions about managing/reviewing/discussing your EMR ?

Email Paula Allen [allenp@gottlieb.com](mailto:allenp@gottlieb.com) or Call 772-766-2795