

Palmetto GBA Corporate [Palmetto GBA Medicare](#)

[Palmetto GBA Home](#) / [Jurisdiction 11 Part B](#) / Browse by Topic / [Frequently Asked Questions](#) / E/M / What specific information can ancillary...

## Jurisdiction 11 Part B

What specific information can ancillary staff (e.g., RN, LPN, CNA) document during an evaluation and management (E/M) encounter? Can ancillary staff act as a scribe for a provider?

### **Answer:**

Ancillary staff may only document:

- Review of systems (ROS)
- Past, family and social history (PFSH)
- Vital signs

These three areas must be reviewed by the physician or non-physician practitioner (NPP) who must write a statement that it is reviewed and correct or add to it.

Only the physician or NPP that is conducting the E/M service can perform the history of present illness (HPI). This is considered physician work and not relegated to ancillary staff. The exam and medical decision making are also considered physician work and not relegated to ancillary staff. In certain instances, an office or emergency room triage nurse may document pertinent information regarding the chief complaint (CC)/HPI, but this information should be treated as preliminary information. The physician providing this E/M service must consider this information preliminary and needs to document that he or she explored the HPI in more detail.

### **Scribes:**

A scribe can be an NPP, nurse or other appropriate personnel designated by the physician/NPP to document or dictate on their behalf. A scribe does not have to be an employee of the physician/NPP. The medical record must clearly reflect:

- Who performed the service
- Who recorded the service
- A notation from the physician/NPP that he/she reviewed the documentation for accuracy
- Signed and dated by the performing physician/NPP

### **Examples:**

- Handwritten Note:
  - Identification of scribe:
    - '\_\_\_\_\_ scribing for Dr. \_\_\_\_\_' or '\_\_\_\_\_ is scribing for me today'
  - Notation from physician/NPP that he/she reviewed for accuracy:
    - 'I agree with the above documentation' or 'I agree the documentation is accurate and complete'
  - EMR/Dictated Note:
    - Identification of scribe:
      - 'Dictated by \_\_\_\_\_'
    - Notation from physician/NPP that he/she reviewed for accuracy:
      - 'I agree with the above documentation' or 'I agree the documentation is accurate and complete'

last updated on 04/11/2013

ver 1.0.37