

Time Study FAQ's

What are "time studies?"

These are forms which document the amount of time that our physicians are spending in teaching, administration and supervision of PA's and nurse practitioner. Medicare uses these forms when they are auditing our documentation. When they see documentation to support only 50% of the teaching that we are doing, they adjust their reimbursement for graduate medical education proportionately.

Does Medicare really look at these things?

Yes. We are due for an audit this year. They will certainly expect this documentation.

How much money are we talking about?

This year the total Graduate Medical Education amount was 3.88 million dollars. The difference between doing a good job on the time studies and doing a poor job could mean well over a million dollars to our system.

Am I obligated to do this?

Yes! If you are contracted with VCMC, your contract includes a percentage of for time teaching and administration. Most of the physicians in the system are contracted to provide 5-15% of your time teaching and 5-10% administrating. Your time study is required in order to document this service.

I see that the week is preprinted on the form. What if I was on vacation that week?

No problem. Choose a typical week for that month and change the date on the form

Why the new wording?

The new wording aligns with the verbiage of Medicare's Physicians at Teaching Hospitals rules. Briefly, the lines mean:

-**A-I first line** - time spent with the residents seeing patients.

-**A-I second line** - time in clinic overseeing residents i.e. those that you would bill a GE when you don't actually see the patient.

-**A-I third line** - includes any general oversight of residency issues or residents' patient care

-**A-II first line** - supervision of P.A.'s and nurse practitioners.

-**A-II second line** - Disregard

-**A-III first line** - includes committee meetings, meeting with nurses, and work on PI projects.

-**A-III second line** - includes lectures and developing tools for teaching.

- **Section B** - Direct patient care.

I thought that we were moving to quarterly time studies.

After initial verbal approval was given to change to quarterly time studies our request was then denied. Medicare requires that we continue to do monthly time studies.

Thank you for all of the important work that you do for our patients here. This is one way that 15 minutes of your time can have a valuable and positive effect on our services.

Best Regards,



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