

Physician Education Express

Mandatory Immediate Post-Operative or Immediate Post Procedure Note Requirements



Audience: Surgeons or Proceduralists
Education Level- Yellow
September 25, 2017

SUMMARY

An immediate post-operative or immediate post-procedure note is a brief note that communicates pertinent patient information to the healthcare team until the full post-operative/procedure note can be completed.

REQUIREMENTS

The note is to be completed **immediately** following any procedure (surgical and non-surgical) in which moderate sedation, deep sedation, or anesthesia services were administered. This requirement applies to procedures performed in outpatient or inpatient settings. ***Immediately following means prior to the patient leaving the room*** (procedure or OR). Proceduralists accompanying the patient to an intensive care unit may complete the note in the new location but must indicate such in the note.

The note is **not permitted** to reference another document that is either not available yet (full operative or procedure note) or requires healthcare personnel to look in another location to find the information.

The required note fields include:

- **Names of the primary surgeon or proceduralist and assistants**
- **Post-operative diagnosis**
- **Procedure(s) performed**
- **Findings**
- **Estimated blood loss (if none, must list “none”)**
- **Specimens removed (if none, must list “none”)**

For the note to be considered compliant by CMS, the above information must be present and the note *signed, dated, and timed* by the surgeon or proceduralist **immediately** following any procedure

The surgeon or proceduralist is responsible for completing the note. Note completion may be delegated to a fellow, resident, PA-C, or NP assisting with the procedure.

Resources

Regulatory Resources:

- [JCAHO-Record of Care chapter, RC.02.01.03, EP 7](#)
- [CMS Medicare Requirement 482.51\(b\)\(6\)](#)

Cerner Templates:

There are several PowerNote templates that meet all of the federally required documentation elements:

1. SN Immediate Post Op Note (may be used for anesthesia and/or sedation cases)
2. GI Immediate Post Procedure note
3. Cardiology/IR Immediate Post Procedure note
4. Abdominal Radiology Immediate Post Procedure note
5. Standard Immediate Post Procedure Note