

EP. 63 The Importance of Proper Documentation

Proper documentation is so important!! It sets the team up for success and is the first line of defense in a malpractice lawsuit.

Main Errors in Dental Documentation

- Failure to have a treatment plan.
- Failure to update the medical history.
- Prescribing contraindicated drugs.
- Altering the chart, such as adding information that wasn't there before.
- Incomplete chart notes.

Chart Tips:

- Do not alter or add to the original chart notes. Add as an addendum.
- Do not skip lines between entries.
- Record events in the order they happen.
- Record how much anesthetic you use.
- Do not use the "WNL" because it's too ambiguous.
- Use facts and clear verbiage. Record exactly what the patient said.
- Put the date, reason for visit, and thorough review of health and dental history.
- Chart the patient's chief complaint, visual findings, doctor exam and diagnosis, and treatment recommendations.
- Add any treatment rendered, items you gave to the patient, next visit, and signature.

Is it time to update your chart notes? Make sure you take a look and add anything that might be missing. This could keep you out of the courtroom!