

Medical Student Electronic Record Policy

Purpose: To provide direction for maximal educational experience in patient care as it relates to electronic medical record (EMR) documentation.

Rationale: Documenting medical records for patients involves not only the act of recording but the act of thought leading to the record. The IUSM places value on encouraging independent thinking as a way to develop professional skills including communication and problem solving. Electronic medical records make possible the repetition of stored material (“copying” or “cutting and pasting”). At the medical student level IUSM finds that these electronic copying methods interfere with educational value. The use of others’ words in the EMR has other associated issues (such as legal liability). These should be distinguished from the educational goal.

Policy

1. All IUSM medical students must document patient encounters in their own words without “copying” “cutting” or “pasting” from the previous medical record. When documenting patient contacts for the same patient in serial fashion, each record will be developed from the clinical encounter and not the previous record.
2. If there is any other situation in which use of others’ words are being considered, the student should consult the clinical preceptor regarding appropriateness of citation. Proper citation of sources is necessary and the student is referred to policies regarding citation and plagiarism covered elsewhere.
3. Students are expected to adhere to this policy. Failure to do so may result action in the Ethics and/or Professionalism competency.

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