

ECONOMICS

HCFA Agrees on Proxy Signature for Teaching Physicians

The ACR received a document from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) stating that HCFA is in agreement with the discussion of "proxy signature" at the Dec. 13, 1996, Teaching Physician Tele-Conference.

The memorandum states, "When the teaching physician reviews the image, such as an X-ray, with the resident, it is sufficient evidence of the teaching physician's involvement in the service if the resident's note indicates that the teaching physician viewed the image with the resident and agreed with the interpretation."

While the document does not contain the term "proxy signature" in the text, HCFA has given verbal confirmation that, for example, if teaching physician #1 has viewed the image with the resident and agreed with the interpretation of the resident, the resident would document this in the report, and teaching physician #2 can sign the resident's interpretation if teaching physician #1 is not available.

HCFA has provided a copy of the videotape to the Carrier Medical Directors and the HCFA Regional Officers. Members who want to purchase a copy of the videotape must contact the MGMA Education department directly (303-397-7876).