

Physician Documentation Guide for Episodes of Care

Episodes of Care

1. Select a type and follow the arrows:

- Initial Encounter (active treatment, may apply to multiple services and/or multiple dates of service)

Document as IE if:

- ED patient (seen in or referred from ED)
- Surgical treatment including pre- & post-surgical imaging
- New injury still being evaluated



- Subsequent Encounter (routine care during the healing or recovery phase)

Document as SE if:

- Ordered as a "follow-up" or "check status" study
- Presence of a cast, internal fixation device (beyond initial pre-/post-placement images)



- Sequela (residual effect after the acute phase has terminated)

Document as a sequela if the current complaint is related to prior accident/injury. Select from the following:

- Scarring
- Deformity
- Post-traumatic arthritis
- Pain and other conditions



2. Include the following:

- Remember to include in the patient history details related to the accident/injury. e.g.:
 - Shoulder pain and bruising after fall from ladder
 - Laceration forehead from MVA

For fractures subsequent encounters must document status as:

- Routine healing
- Delayed healing
- Malunion
- Non-union

- Encounters for sequela require that the provider directly link the original injury to the identified residual effect or complication.

NOTE:

Please document Gustilo Class if known.