

Chapter 4

Documentation Formats

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KEY TERMS Assessment | Functional outcome report | Individualized Education Plan | Individualized Family Service Plan | Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act | Narrative | Objective | Plan | Problem-oriented medical record | SOAP note | Subjective

KEY ABBREVIATIONS A | FOR | IDEA | IEP | IFSP | O | P | POMR | S | SOAP

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

After reading this chapter, the reader will be able to do the following:

1. Describe each documentation format.
2. Examine the different physical therapy documentation formats.
3. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of different documentation formats.
4. Differentiate between information found in the S (subjective), O (objective), A (assessment), and P (plan) portions of a SOAP note.
5. Identify the positive and negative aspects of using forms and templates.
6. Recognize the need for adapting clinical documentation into a given format.

Documentation in physical therapy practice can take on a variety of formats depending on the type of patients being treated, practice setting, type of facility, state laws and practice acts, reimbursement requirements, and electronic medical record system being used. Historically, there have been several formats used in physical therapy practice, such as narrative reports, the problem-oriented medical record,

the SOAP note, and the functional outcomes report (FOR; Figure 4-1). While a brief discussion of each will be provided, it is important to point out that, as the health care system transitions to electronic medical record keeping, one will have to be flexible in adapting to the templates provided by the software available at the site; therefore, it is important for new clinicians to have an overview of basic formats so that they can be able to adapt to a given computer interface.

NARRATIVE

In narrative documentation, the clinician describes the patient encounter in paragraph format.

Narrative Example #1

Date: 03/30/17

Patient: David White

Pt. RTC reporting no adverse effects from treatment last visit or from HEP. He stated that he feels as though his wrist and ankle are moving better and the edema in the hand has decreased. He reports improvement in his gait, ability to shower (I) using a plastic chair in the tub, and ability to