

# Professional Billing Compliance Frequently Asked Questions

## Teaching Physician Guidelines

1. [If the teaching physician is performing interventional procedures, such as myelograms, cardiac caths or TST's is his/her participation required for the entire procedure?](#)
2. [What is the Medicare rule characterizing "minor procedures"?](#)
3. [Can a non-physician \(eg, NP, PA, or other health care provider\) document an encounter and have that documentation used to support a teaching physician's note in the same way as a resident?](#)

1. **If the teaching physician is performing interventional procedures, such as myelograms, cardiac caths or TST's is his/her participation required for the entire procedure?**

The teaching physician must document his/her participation during the critical portions of the procedure, and must be immediately available for the entire time.

2. **What is the Medicare rule characterizing "minor procedures"?**

Those procedures with 0-10 global days. Presence throughout the entire procedure must be documented in the medical record.

3. **Can a non-physician (eg, NP, PA, or other health care provider) document an encounter and have that documentation used to support a teaching physician's note in the same way as a resident?**

Documentation created by a non-MD practitioner (nurse practitioners, PAs, RN's, and other health care practitioners) cannot be used to support a teaching physician's note in the same way as a resident. The teaching physician rules do not apply to NPPs. CMS has a separate policy on shared visits by physicians that include NPPs, relating to physicians in the same group practice.

[Back to Top](#)