

Professional Practice Corner

Do all of my charts have to be signed?

No, physician co-signature is not required on all patient charts. According to state law, Med Chapter 8.08, the only charts requiring physician review are those encounters where new prescription orders are issued. WAPA has received clarification from the Department of Regulation and Licensing that refill prescriptions (prescription for medications the patient is already taking) do not need physician co-signature. Co-signature can be accomplished any number of ways. For example, the physician can sign a signature sheet in the front of the chart, sign the individual prescriptions or co-sign each individual clinic note. Your supervising physician or employer may, as a matter of policy, require that all charts be co-signed. This is well within their rights as your employer, as long as they do not interfere with the supervisory responsibilities of the physician.