



CPOE

Is order entry a physician-only EHR task?

Computerized provider order entry (CPOE) is a process of electronic entry of medical practitioner instructions for the treatment of patients under the physician's care. Physicians use CPOE to increase efficiency and reduce errors by submitting orders in the EHR.

DEBUNKING REGULATORY MYTHS

AMA's regulatory myths series provides administrative leaders and physicians with resources to reduce guesswork and administrative burdens so their focus can be on improving patient outcomes, streamlining clinical workflow processes, and increasing physician satisfaction.

THE MYTH

Only physicians can pend, or enter, orders into the EHR—and a nurse, certified medical assistant (MA) or other non-credentialed staff can't pend or send orders in the EHR as requested by the physician.

DEBUNKING THE MYTH

All members of the care team (PDF), including nurses, credentialed medical assistants (MAs), or non-credentialed staff members can enter orders in the EHR, as requested by the physician.¹ Additionally, there is no Medicare EHR incentive program that requires CPOE. Clinical and clerical staff can pend or send orders per the physician's instruction (i.e. as conveyed verbally or through written checklist), as long as this is consistent with state and institutional policies.

REGULATORY CLARIFICATION

New guidance was issued from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in 2017.

"In the 2017 OPPS rule, we finalized the elimination of the CPOE and CDS objectives and associated measures for eligible hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). The elimination of the CPOE and CDS objectives and associated measures also applies to dual-eligible hospitals that are attesting to CMS for both the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs.

However, the CPOE and CDS objectives and measures are still required for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program to successfully attest to meaningful use.

Please also note we did not include CPOE and CDS objectives and associated measures as part of the advancing care information performance category, thus, they are not required for reporting by MIPS eligible clinicians."²

CPOE objectives remain in the Medicaid EHR Incentive program (PDF). Within this program, "any licensed health care provider or a medical staff person who is a credentialed medical assistant or is credentialed to and performs the duties equivalent to a credentialed medical assistant (PDF) can enter orders in the medical record, per state, local and professional guidelines."³ Medicare Quality Payment Program Overview (PDF)

¹ Medicaid Eligible Professionals Promoting Interoperability Program Stage 3. Objectives and Measures for 2018. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, June 2018

² FAQ #22349. Objectives & Measures FAQ. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

³ Documentation Assistance Provided by Scribes. Perspectives Newsletter – The Official Newsletter of The Joint Commission, 38 (8). The Joint Commission, August 2018

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