



RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST PRACTICES IN DOCUMENTATION

This document is being provided by the Ohio Athletic Trainers Section, which is responsible for the scope of practice for athletic training in the State of Ohio. Questions related to interpretation of the State Practice Act can be referred to: AT Section at (614) 466-3774 or board@otptat.ohio.gov

The State of Ohio Athletic Training Code of Ethics states that:

The following basic principles make up the code of ethical conduct for the practice of athletic training in the state of Ohio. When a person becomes a licensed athletic trainer, they assume certain ethical obligations and responsibilities. An athletic trainer whose conduct is not in accordance with the principles set forth in the following code of ethical conduct shall be considered in violation of the Revised Code.

(D) Athletic trainers shall maintain and promote high standards in the provision of services.

(1) Athletic trainers shall strive to achieve the highest level of competence.

(2) Athletic trainers shall recognize the need for continuing education and participate in various types of educational activities that enhance their skills and knowledge in accordance with continuing education guidelines for the profession.

(3) Athletic trainers shall keep accurate records for all areas of injury management. These shall include, but are not limited to, written referrals, personal injury reports/initial evaluation, and daily care rendered/rehabilitation logs. These records shall be in paper or electronic format and secured according to legal statutes regarding confidentiality.

(4) Athletic trainers shall not document or bill for services not actually provided.

Education standards states that:

Graduates of a CAATE program must “use contemporary documentation techniques to effectively communicate with patients, medical professionals, insurers, and other relevant stakeholders. These include using a comprehensive electronic medical records management system (including diagnostic and procedural codes) for appropriate chart documentation, risk management, outcomes and billing.”

Journal of Athletic Training 2018;53(6):619–626 – “Future Strategies to Enhance Patient Care Documentation Among Athletic Trainers: A Report From the Athletic Training Practice-Based Research Network” by Bacon, et al

NATA Best Practice Guidelines for Athletic Training Documentation states that:

Technological advances over the years have allowed for the electronic charting of medical records. In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law which mandated that as of January 1, 2014, all public and private health care providers must have electronic health records in order to maintain their existing Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement levels. Although ATs were not specifically named in this act, there are ATs who work in settings that are affected by this requirement.

Benefits of Electronic Medical Records

1. Providing accurate, up to date, and complete information about patients at the point of care.
2. Enabling quick access to patient records for more coordinated and efficient care.
3. Securely sharing electronic information with patients and other clinicians.
4. Helping providers more effectively diagnose patients, reduce medical errors and provide safer care.
5. Improving patient and provider interaction and communication, as well as health care convenience.
6. Helping promote legible, complete documentation and accurate, streamlined coding and billing.
7. Enhancing privacy and security of patient data.

National Athletic Trainers’ Association. (2017). *Best Practice Guidelines for Athletic Training Documentation* [PDF file]. Retrieved from <https://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/best-practice-guidelines-for-athletic-training-documentation.pdf>

The Athletic Trainers Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers Board recommends that all documentation should be completed in a reasonable and timely manner.

The Mission of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board is to actively promote and protect the health of Ohioans through effective regulation of the professions of occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training.

Visit otptat.ohio.gov to learn more about the role of the Ohio OTPTAT Board.