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ScribeAmerica Endorses The Joint Commission's Clarification of Supported Scribe Use

The Joint Commission announced their revision to their position on scribe use:

http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/jcfaqdetails.aspx?StandardsFAQChapterId=19&StandardsFAQId=426

Which Providers Can Utilize Scribes

Following the May 18th, 2011 announcement, there was debate on whether scribe use by Physician Assistants is a supported action. Today's announcement has clarified that **scribe use by Physician Assistants is indeed a supported action**. For many of our partners, this has been a significant issue that potentially threatened the increased productivity gains achieved through the synergy of physician assistants using scribes. Behind the scenes, ScribeAmerica with The American College of Clinical Information Managers (ACCIM) has been working with the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and has lobbied The Joint Commission to *specify* that the use of scribes by physician assistants is supported. Dr. Murphy and Dr. Moreno drafted a letter that was sent to the Joint Commission in the spring of this year (see attached) and we are satisfied to see that our efforts were productive.

Which Scribe Tasks Are Acceptable

The Joint Commission again reaffirms its support that scribes are allowed to enter medical data into the patient's electronic medical record or chart at the direction of the physician or practitioner. However, The Joint Commission **no longer supports the practice of scribes entering orders**. ScribeAmerica understands that this new statement comes from their concern over the potential for adding patient risk to the documentation process. We further agree that scribes should not be allowed to "execute" orders, however, what is still unclear is whether The Joint Commission is speaking to the action of "executing" orders versus "pending" orders. Some electronic medical records allow for orders to be pended **prior** to being executed. Only the physician or practitioner can execute orders with their unique log-in credentials, thus ensuring patient safety. For the handful of our locations that allow scribes to pend orders, ScribeAmerica will continue to work with The Joint Commission at making the distinction between pending and executing orders.

ScribeAmerica is always working to improve operational efficiencies for our clients and feel that our efforts have been productive in helping our clients expand the use of scribes to their physician assistants.

About ScribeAmerica

Since 2004, ScribeAmerica has essentially created the Scribe industry; we are the nation's largest professional scribe training and Management Company, present in over **160 healthcare facilities, in 30 states and employing more than 1700 scribes**. Our scribe programs and scribes stay current with all ACCIM guidelines and testing. We feel it is necessary to be certified in order to distinguish ourselves from less closely regulated scribe programs. For more information visit www.ScribeAmerica.com