

(a) The services are personally furnished by a physician who is not a resident; or

(b) The services are furnished by a resident in the presence of a teaching physician except as provided in §415.172 (concerning physician fee schedule payment for services of teaching physicians), §415.174 (concerning an exception for services furnished in hospital outpatient and certain other ambulatory settings), §415.176 (concerning renal dialysis services), and §415.184 (concerning psychiatric services), as applicable.

§415.172 Physician fee schedule payment for services of teaching physicians.

(a) *General rule.* If a resident participates in a service furnished in a teaching setting, physician fee schedule payment is made only if a teaching physician is present during the key portion of any service or procedure for which payment is sought.

(1) In the case of surgical, high-risk, or other complex procedures, the teaching physician must be present during all critical portions of the procedure and immediately available to furnish services during the entire service or procedure.

(i) In the case of surgery, the teaching physician's presence is not required during opening and closing of the surgical field.

(ii) In the case of procedures performed through an endoscope, the teaching physician must be present during the entire viewing.

(2) In the case of evaluation and management services, the teaching physician must be present during the portion of the service that determines the level of service billed. (However, in the case of evaluation and management services furnished in hospital outpatient departments and certain other ambulatory settings, the requirements of §415.174 apply.)

(b) *Documentation.* Except for services furnished as set forth in §§415.174 (concerning an exception for services furnished in hospital outpatient and certain other ambulatory settings), 415.176 (concerning renal dialysis services), and 415.184 (concerning psychiatric services), the medical records must

document the teaching physician was present at the time the service is furnished. The presence of the teaching physician during procedures may be demonstrated by the notes in the medical records made by a physician, resident, or nurse. In the case of evaluation and management procedures, the teaching physician must personally document his or her participation in the service in the medical records.

(c) *Payment level.* In the case of services such as evaluation and management for which there are several levels of service codes available for reporting purposes, the appropriate payment level must reflect the extent and complexity of the service when fully furnished by the teaching physician.

§415.174 Exception: Evaluation and management services furnished in certain centers.

(a) In the case of certain evaluation and management codes of lower and mid-level complexity (as specified by CMS in program instructions), carriers may make physician fee schedule payment for a service furnished by a resident without the presence of a teaching physician. For the exception to apply, all of the following conditions must be met:

(1) The services must be furnished in a center that is located in an outpatient department of a hospital or another ambulatory care entity in which the time spent by residents in patient care activities is included in determining intermediary payments to a hospital under §413.86.

(2) Any resident furnishing the service without the presence of a teaching physician must have completed more than 6 months of an approved residency program.

(3) The teaching physician must not direct the care of more than four residents at any given time and must direct the care from such proximity as to constitute immediate availability. The teaching physician must—

(i) Have no other responsibilities at the time;

(ii) Assume management responsibility for those beneficiaries seen by the residents;

(iii) Ensure that the services furnished are appropriate;