

Responsibilities of Attending MD

The Attending Physician (patient's physician of record) has a dual responsibility: patient care and supervision/teaching of house staff and students who participate in patient care on the Medical Service.

The Attending Physician is ultimately responsible for the care of the patient.

To meet these responsibilities, it is expected that the Attending Physician will:

Discuss the reason for admission and goals for hospitalization with the appropriate medical resident at the time of admission, and document the reason and goals in an attending admitting note in the medical record in a timely manner and in all instances within 24 hours.

Audit, correct and countersign the admission work-up by the Intern or Acting Intern as soon after admission as possible and in all instances within the first 24 hours following admission.

Countersignature signifies agreement with the data base collection, problem list, goals and plans as written or as corrected by the Attending Physician.

Confirm at the patient's bedside pertinent historical and physical examination findings when requested by house staff and/or students.

Document ongoing supervision of patient care through progress notes, review and countersignature of house staff and student notes.

Refrain from writing orders on patients on the teaching service except when the urgency of patient care precludes discussion with the house officer(s) sharing in the responsibility for the patient.

On patients on the teaching service, coordinate discharge planning with the house staff and assume responsibility for communicating with the referring physician at the time the patient is discharged.

Provide cross-coverage for inpatients, as required by the Medical Service Rules and Regulations, when unavailable and indicate such coverage in the medical record.