



QRTIPS

Health Care Agency • Behavioral Health Services • CYS Quality, Review & Training

December 2008

Dear Happy to Help,

I am new to the county and I can't quite figure out what the "S" in the SIROP, SIP or SOAP of the progress note is supposed to include.

Signed,

Needing to be Enlightened

Dear Needing to be Enlightened,

The question you ask is a very good one. We have noticed that there are a variety of different interpretations even among experienced clinicians of what the "S" is about. For one thing, I need to clarify that the paragraph at the top of the progress note which gives the identifying information, diagnosis/symptoms/behaviors is **NOT** the "S" but is **required** for the note to qualify as a stand-alone note. The "S" is simply whatever the client brings to the session that particular day of service. For example the "S" could start with "today client/parent report that client..." In other words the "S" includes the symptoms, behaviors or problems that the therapist worked on that particular day in treatment with the client.

Signed,

Happy to Help

Dear Happy to Help,

I have had several notes returned to me because they were "blended."

I am soooo busy, what is the big deal?

Signed,

FLUSTERED

Dear Flustered,

I totally understand your frustration and time constraints. The problem with blended notes is that by definition the two different services are billed at different rates. For example: If you conduct a case management service in the middle of a therapy session and then bill the whole time as a therapy session there is a problem because the CM service is paid at a lower rate but being billed at a higher rate! As you may guess this presents a problem when the notes get audited. This, of course, also applies to medication services. For example if an M.D. writes a note that looks like a bit of therapy was conducted but the corresponding ED indicates a medication service was conducted we again have a problem because therapy is billed at a lower rate than medication services. I hope this clarification will help you avoid the need to have to rewrite any more notes in the future.

Signed,

Happy to Help