

# Purpose of Progress Notes

- Facilitate care of patients
  - Permanent record
  - Consultants
  - Hand offs
- Medical legal document
- Billing
- Education of writer

# Progress Notes - Issues

- How long?
- Meds?
- Lab?
- X-Rays?
- When to be written?

# Progress Note

- Summary statement

# Progress Notes

- Summary statement
  - Can be cut and pasted forward
  - Significant updates and corrections

# Progress Note

- Subjective
  - Update of admission symptoms
  - New symptoms or problem
- Objective
  - Updated & directed physical exam

# Impression and Plan

- Don't repeat the summary statement
- Problem based
- List each problem separately
- Most important problem should be first

# Impression and Plan

- Each problem should include some discussion
  - Include synthesis of lab data and test results
  - Consultant's recommendations
  - Include your THINKING – WHY

# Impression and Plan

- Should be NEW and UPDATED every day
- Most important part of the note
- Not necessary to include all stable problems
- Disposition and prophylaxis always good to include to keep you on track



# Impression and Plan

- Identify your plans
- Be specific
- Avoid “to consider”
- Use if/then statements instead
- Each problem should have a separate plan

# Impression and Plan

- Use your plan to communicate what you need to know
- What questions do you need your consultants to answer?
- What are you troubled by?
- Should be a working document!

# Summary

- A good progress note is:
  - Focused
  - Targeted
  - Well organized
  - Specific
  - Updated daily
  - Has a plan
  - User friendly!