Legal Implications of Documentation
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Summary: There are many legal implications of documentation. The electronic medical record has both advantages and disadvantages. Clear and concise documentation adds to the credibility of the provider. Follow the institution’s policy for documentation, specifically late documentation, and never record a sarcastic comment. Clear, factual documentation plays an important role in patient safety and risk management.

Nursing Implications:
• By identifying concepts of professional negligence, nurses better understand how documentation assists in defending nursing care.
• Clear, concise documentation supports the credibility of the author and improves communication with other providers.
• Knowledge of a facility’s specific policies regarding EMR processes is important.
• Complete nursing documentation leaves fewer gaps in the patient’s care story.

Key Takeaways:
• Documentation helps or hinders a nurse’s credibility.
• EMR options, such as copy and paste, are pitfalls to credible documentation.
• The EMR is transparent, "sees-all," regarding time of documentation and changes made to documentation.
• Late entries should include date and time of documentation as well as date and time being referred to and the reason a late entry is being made.

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References:

