MRAD 223 – Patient Care 1

Charting

Purpose: *Explain the requirements for charting.*

Charting is intended to:

- Provide a medical, legal and multidisciplinary function.
- Record only relevant patient care information.
- Assist with the planning of the treatment and care of a patient.

Goals of Charting:

- Provide accurate records to the care-giver in order to meet the patient's need during their hospitalization.
- Provide communication for all members of the healthcare team.
- Serve as the record of a patient's condition and care as given.

The radiographer should consider documenting:

- The patient's condition upon arrival to the x-ray department.
    - Regular monitoring may be required during the patient's stay in the radiography department. The more seriously ill the patient is, the more frequently their condition should be documented.
- The patient's condition upon discharge from the x-ray department.

How to Properly Document: The Do's and Don'ts

1. Print or write legibly.
2. Use professional terminology and approved abbreviations.
3. Never leave blank spaces for others to ponder
    - Use N/A or cross through the space when appropriate.
4. Each entry is signed and staff status indicated.
5. Times of specific events are in sequence.
6. Include care given and observation of patient's response.
7. **Black** ink is preferred (never use pencil).
8. If an error is made, draw a line through the incorrect notation. Print correction above error and initial it.
    - Erasers and liquid paper are NOT used as charted information may not be destroyed or changed.
9. Information can be documented in point form
    - Does not have to be written in sentences.
10. Never chart for others-ONLY document the care YOU provided or supervised directly.
11. Never chart or document in a fashion that could be determined as a negative assault on the patient's character (slander).
12. Accurate documentation of patient condition in the radiology department is essential for professional patient care and legal practices.

Reference

Dutton, A.G., Linn-Watson, T.A., & Torres, L.S. (2013). *Torres' patient care in imaging technology* (8th ed.). Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.