Enforcement: Health care providers must report public health menu measures managed or reported through their EHR system. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services is auditing Medicare claims for beneficiaries with at least 1 public health menu measure. The OIG found that some EPs have adequately protected electronic health record systems from cloning, suggesting that, due to government requirements, the EHR development has been focused on something other than the clinical record. The OIG emphasizes that, in the past, chart integrity has been a concern, and they want to see it maintained.

From an auditing perspective, gleaning relevant information from a documented note in an EHR can be a challenge. The OIG ON THE LOOKOUT suggests that, due to government requirements, the EHR development has been focused on something other than the clinical record. They emphasize that, in the past, chart integrity has been a concern, and they want to see it maintained.

To avoid problems with cloning, physicians can ensure that their notes are accurate and complete. They should also make sure that any edits or changes are documented clearly. The OIG ON THE LOOKOUT emphasizes that, due to government requirements, the EHR development has been focused on something other than the clinical record. They want to see chart integrity maintained.

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Medical records are valuable assets. They contain documentation of diagnoses, treatments, and medical procedures. The ability to pull forward problem lists from a patient’s previous date of service can help physicians keep track of a patient’s medical history. Add to this the time-saving power of computerized templates with check boxes used in a review of systems (ROS), and you have a powerful tool for improving productivity. Of course, the ability to do so should not come at the expense of medical record integrity.

When doctors, nurses, or other clinicians copy-paste and replicate notes or information, inaccurate information may enter the medical record. The OIG ON THE LOOKOUT emphasizes that, due to government requirements, the EHR development has been focused on something other than the clinical record. They want to see chart integrity maintained.

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Government requirements can lead health care providers to prioritize features that are useful for billing and documentation. This can result in the submission of unsupported bills. Documentation is part of the work a physician is paid to do, and cloning is shortchanging that work. The OIG ON THE LOOKOUT emphasizes that, due to government requirements, the EHR development has been focused on something other than the clinical record. They want to see chart integrity maintained.

On the billing side, inappropriate use of EHRs may suggest that services were provided when they were not. When doctors, nurses, or other clinicians copy-paste and replicate notes or information, inaccurate information may enter the medical record. The OIG ON THE LOOKOUT emphasizes that, due to government requirements, the EHR development has been focused on something other than the clinical record. They want to see chart integrity maintained.

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