Ethics Informed Documentation Strategies
Vague documentation v. detailed documentation
Long notes v. short notes
Decisions about third-party access to records

Documentation and Risk Management: Malpractice and Licensing Board Complaints
The nature of malpractice:
Documentation issues
Malpractice and licensing board risks related to documentation
Standards of care in documentation
Acts of omission in documentation
Acts of commission in documentation
Responding to subpoenas
Documentation challenges in the digital age

Practical Tips on the Do’s and Don’ts of Mental Health Documentation
Examples of good and bad notes
Case examples

Objectives
1. Identify the diverse purposes of documentation.
2. Address documentation challenges related to client privacy, confidentiality, and privileged communication.
3. Identify the implications of skilled documentation for risk management in behavioral health.
4. Avoid common documentation mistakes.
5. Develop documentation protocols consistent with ethical standards in behavioral health.
6. Implement ethics-informed documentation strategies to protect clients and prevent lawsuits and licensing board complaints.

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**Meet Your Speaker**

Frederic G. Reamer, PhD, has been a professor in the graduate program of the school of social work, Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island for 40 years. Dr. Reamer received his PhD from the University of Chicago and has served as a social worker in correctional and mental health settings. He chaired the national task force that wrote the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and served on the task force that added technology standards to the code. Dr. Reamer lectures both nationally and internationally on the subjects of professional ethics, professional malpractice and liability, and documentation. In addition to ethics, his research and teaching have addressed a wide range of human service issues, including mental health, health care, criminal justice, and public welfare. Dr. Reamer has conducted extensive research on professional ethics and has been involved in several national research projects sponsored by The Hastings Center, Carnegie Corporation, Haas Foundation, and Center for Bioethics of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Reamer has been an expert witness and formal ethics consultant in more than 130 litigation and licensing board cases throughout the United States. He is the author of many books and other publications on ethical standards in behavioral health, risk management, and documentation.

**Speaker Disclosure:**
Financial: Frederic Reamer has employment relationships with the Rhode Island College, the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, and the Providence Public Administration Training Academy. Some courses are published as a joint venture with PESI Inc. Dr. Reamer receives a speaking honorarium and recording royalties from PESI, Inc. He has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible organizations.
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