

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: Inpatient Consult Vs. Transfer of Care

Question: If you write orders on an inpatient consult, is it still considered a consult, or is it a transfer of care?

Anonymous CT subscriber

Answer: This would still be a consult, unless it is documented by the attending physician that its a transfer of care. A consult may necessitate ordering labs and other tests in order to form a professional opinion and allow the consulting physician to render the requested medical advice. The attending physician must also note the request for consult in the patients medical records.