

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Case Goes To Trial Because Doctor Didn't Document Recommendation

Good documentation doesn't just get paid, it can keep you out of trouble.

Case in point: Physician **Rebecca Crouch** says she recommended a colonoscopy and proctoscopy for **Joseph Lee Amos** after he complained of pain and rectal bleeding, but he refused them. Amos claims Crouch never mentioned the words -colonoscopy- or -cancer,- and he was later diagnosed with colon cancer, requiring surgery and permanent colostomy.

A lower court granted Crouch's motion of dismissal, because Amos couldn't prove she didn't recommend those tests. But the **Louisiana Second Circuit Court of Appeal** reversed this decision, saying the lack of documentation in Crouch's files that would show she recommended a colonoscopy to Amos means a jury could conclude she never made the recommendation.