

## Eli's Rehab Report

### Reader Question: Incident-To Billing

**Question:** Im confused after reading your article on incident-to. Must the physician be present when a member of the staff (e.g., a physicians assistant) bills for an E/M code?

New York Subscriber

**Answer:** According to the Medicare Carriers Manual rules on billing incident-to, if the physician is not physically present in the same office suite and not immediately available to render assistance if it becomes necessary, then the practitioner can still perform the service, but must bill under his or her own identification number. For clarification, check your state licensing and carriers requirements, since carriers have leeway to impose more stringent provisions than HCFAs. If the representative orally instructs you to submit the claim a particular way, request that they refer you to written documentation requirements for billing incident-to services.