

When Should You Use a LNC?

It seems time to revisit the old question of using a physician versus a legal nurse consultant (LNC) for your medical litigation needs. While we are prejudiced, we think we can point out several ways in which a LNC can make your practice more effective and profitable.

There are many cases that, while dealing directly with a physician's procedures and practice, may need to begin with a medical generalist's point of view. This medical insider can fill in the background picture regarding medical standards and the realities of what is "common practice". Years of on-the-job experience is invaluable in evaluating the strengths and weakness of your case- even unearthing issues which may not have seemed salient, at first review.

Another consideration is: from which specialty do you choose your consulting physician? For example, you may have a motor vehicle accident where there is a kidney injury. It might seem natural to work with an internist. However, you and your client may be better served by enlisting a trauma specialist. Your finances are more effectively invested by using the LNC to determine your cases' subtleties, as illustrated in the preceding example. Your legal nurse consultant can determine who will best fit your needs and can also locate the appropriate professional to review and/or testify.

Expense is also an issue when choosing your medical resource. Asking a doctor to review, summarize and analyze the medical records can be far more costly than

using a LNC. The average per hour fee is higher, by at least 200%, than a legal nurse consultant's. As an example, your LNC can provide a chronological summary, which is very time consuming, and/or can reconcile bills. These are minutely detailed tasks that are a necessary part of some cases. Doctors will rarely want to do this and, at their fees, it is cost prohibitive to you.

Finally, your LNC is more likely to be available within your time frame. This is your nurse consultant's *professional focus*, whereas most doctors do not pursue this specialty full time.

From pre-screening, through deposition and trial, the LNC offers a broad range of services. We are an integral source of medical information upon which to build your medical-legal practice. ♦

“There are many cases that... must begin with a medical generalist's point of view.”

Take a Look at these Helpful Resources...

Have you ever wanted to send a long URL to a colleague, but they were unable to open it or had to cut and paste the URL into their browser in order to view? [Www.TinyURL](http://www.TinyURL.com) has the solution. All you need to do is go to their site, cut and paste your URL into the blank and a tiny URL is created to cut and paste into your email or reports. You can also add TinyURL to your browser's toolbar so it will always be readily available. Then by clicking on the toolbar button, a TinyURL will be created for the page you are currently viewing.

TinyTimer: A Timer Program

As a legal professional it is imperative that you keep track of your time for billing purposes. There are many ways to do this and many of you will have a system in place that works for you. Or perhaps you have a built in timer on a software package that your firm uses. If not, you may find TinyTimer to be just what you need. TinyTimer is a simple freeware program that you can download. It sits on the bottom of your computer on the task bar, ready for you to open whenever you need to your track time. All you need to do is open it and click on start and stop for each timed task.

Save Time: Professional Printing from Your Computer



Fed Ex Kinko's has free software called File, Print FedEx/Kinko's that puts the power of on-demand printing at your fingertips. By installing this software on your computer, you'll be able to print right from your computer to any FedExKinko's Office and Print Center in the U.S. You can have your documents professionally printed without leaving your desk. You can select color or black & white printing, paper type, single or double sided, report cover options, binding options, preview your order and choose the most convenient Fed Ex Kinko's location if you want to pick up your order or chose to have it shipped via Fed Ex. You can then pay by credit card or commercial account. Go to www.fedex.com for more information. ♦

Missing Information Could Lead to Errors, Delays in Treatment

One of the functions of a primary care doctor is to coordinate the care for the patient. A study funded by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality found that missing clinical information is common in primary care and there is a concern that this could lead to medical errors, delays in treatment or duplication of services.

In this study, physicians's reported missing clinical information in 13.6 % of visits. The missing information included: laboratory results (6.1% of visits), letters/dictation (5.4%), radiology results (3.8%), history and physicals (3.7%) and medication records (3.2%). Forty-four percent of physicians felt the missing information could adversely affect the patient and 59.5% felt the missing information could result in delayed care or additional services. Missing clinical information was more likely when patients were recent immigrants, new patients or had multiple medical problems. Physicians with full electronic medical records were less likely to be missing clinical information. *Source: JAMA, Vol. 293, No. 5.* ♦

Quotable: "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

~Muriel Strode



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED