

ECU Physicians Administration
Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Title: Maintaining Patient Problem List, Allergy List, & Medications List	
Section No. 4	Section Name: Information Management
Approval Date: 06/09/11	Approval: Paul R.G. Cunningham, M.D., Dean

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on initiating and maintaining certain elements in every patient’s medical record that are essential for the efficient use of the record to provide high quality and safe medical care in the ambulatory electronic medical record (EMR) for ECU Physicians. The elements covered in this policy are the Problem List, the Allergy List, and the Medication List. Each of these serves as a communication tool and aids in evaluation and treatment decisions by the primary ECU Physicians provider and when a patient is referred to another provider for care.

II. Definitions:

Allergy – Allergies are described as any substance to which the patient has experienced a sensitivity or adverse reaction. These include medications, food, biological preparations and environmental agents.

Allergy List – Compiles a list of patient’s allergies and sensitivities to medications, foods, biological preparations, and environmental agents in an accurate and up to date format.

Medication – Any substance taken by a patient in the ambulatory (but also meds that maybe given in hospital setting, i.e., Remicade) setting for medicinal or health purposes. This includes prescription medications, over the counter medications, nutritional supplements, herbal remedies, and similar substances.

Medication List – Compiles a continuous list of the medications a patient has received or is currently taking in an accurate and up to date format. When multiple providers are involved in the patient’s care, potential drug incompatibilities or interactions can be identified using the medication list. For consistency and accuracy of the record, the medication list should only contain medications that have been selected from the standard or customized medication

<u>Recommending Body</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
ECU Physicians Board of Directors		06/09/11
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reference list unless the medication is not included in the list and must be entered via free text. Either generic names or proprietary names of medications may be used.

Problem – Significant problems encompass both chronic and acute conditions affecting the management of the patient including any abnormal signs and symptoms that have the potential to become medical problems, social problems such as history of child abuse, and risk factors as smoking.

Problem List - Compiles all past and current patient problems including social, psychological, and medical problems in an accurate and up to date format. A problem should be marked as "resolved" when appropriate.

III. Policy:

It is the policy of ECU Physicians to maintain a current problem list, allergy list, and medication list in each patient's medical record. Every provider, regardless of specialty, must assure the patient's Problem List, Allergy List, and Medication List are reviewed at every encounter and updated as appropriate.

References:

- CMS: General Principles of Evaluation and Management (E/M) Documentation. December 2010
- NCQA Documentation Standards
- NC Medical Board Position Statement: Medical Record Documentation. 2009.

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