

Resident Documentation Readiness Checklist

A practical self-assessment for GME, residency program, and compliance leaders.

Use this checklist to quickly gauge how prepared your residents are for real-world documentation and coding expectations—both during training and after graduation.

Foundational Training

- Residents receive formal documentation education, not just ad hoc guidance
- Training is progressive by PGY level, not “one-and-done”
- Education aligns with current payer and regulatory expectations
- Documentation education goes beyond “compliance” and addresses clinical reasoning and decision-making

Curriculum & Delivery

- Documentation education is standardized across programs or specialties
- Content is on-demand and accessible outside of live lectures
- Training fits within resident schedules without relying solely on protected didactic time
- Residents can revisit material as expectations increase year over year

Feedback & Skill Development

- Residents receive specific feedback on documentation quality—not just corrections
- Faculty and attendings are aligned on what “good documentation” looks like
- Documentation feedback improves over time (not the same issues every year)
- Residents understand why documentation matters, not just what to document

Operational Impact

- Poor documentation is not routinely delaying billing or causing rework
- Coding or compliance teams are not functioning as de facto educators
- Documentation issues are addressed upstream, not after claims are submitted
- There is visibility into common documentation gaps by training level

Readiness for Practice

- Graduating residents are prepared to document independently
- New attendings do not require extensive “re-training” after residency
- Documentation habits formed in training translate to financial and compliance stability
- Leadership is confident residents understand documentation expectations across care settings

Quick Scoring Guide

- 0–6 checked → High risk: documentation education is largely informal or reactive
- 7–12 checked → Moderate risk: some structure exists, but gaps remain
- 13+ checked → Strong foundation with opportunities to refine and scale

If this checklist raised questions or highlighted gaps, you're not alone—many programs recognize the need but lack of scalable, resident-focused solution.