



## CMS "Incident To" Billing Guidelines

Do you have a Nurse Practitioner in your office? In order to be covered as "incident to" the physician's services, the following criteria must be met:

- Are the services performed and Integral, although incidental part of the physician's professional service?
- Commonly rendered without charge or included in the physician's bill?
- Commonly furnished in physician's office or clinic?
- Services furnished by the physician or by auxiliary personnel under physician's direct supervision?

"Incident to" services must be performed under the direct supervision of the physician. CMS directs that "Direct supervision in the office setting does not mean that the physician must be present in the same room with his or her aide. However, *the physician must be present in the office suite and immediately available to provide assistance and direction throughout the time the aide is performing services.*"

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**Medical (me-di-k el):** Practice of medicine through physical examination.

**Billing (bil-ing):** The total amount of business done with in a specific period.

**Unlimited (un-lim-ited):** Boundless opportunities.

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