



Patient Protection/Physician Compliance

## Consultations & Referrals

Consider whether a consultation or a referral is appropriate at any time during the physician-patient relationship.

- If patient has symptoms or history of depression or other psychological problem, consider mental health consult and document efforts and results.
- You may need to use a consultation or referral early in the treatment plan if the patient has a history of substance abuse or coexisting psychiatric disorder.
- Document your efforts and the results; Document corresponding changes/modifications to the treatment plan.
- Make sure you obtain reports from consultations and referrals and review each patient and file them according to appropriate documentation standards.\*

**Legend**

Single Asterisk (\*) means this depends on state licensing board requirements and standards of care.

Base source: Federation of State Medical Boards *Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances to Treat Pain* (May 2004)