How Providers Use Progress Notes to Document Your Healthcare

In the ‘Ambulatory Progress Notes’ section of the electronic medical record, your healthcare team records details of your ongoing care and clinical status during the course of outpatient care. Typically, your physician or a nurse on the care team will compose at least one progress note for every office visit.

The main function of a progress note is to provide a concise, comprehensive summary of a patient’s condition for all members of the healthcare team. Progress notes are used for documenting clinical observations, diagnostic tests ordered, and care delivered during an office visit. There may be suspected conditions listed in a note that are not confirmed diagnoses. Although patient education is not the purpose of progress notes, we hope that the release of this information into MyChart will enable you to become more involved and knowledgeable regarding your healthcare.

*Please note that progress notes will be released for Cleveland Clinic providers only. If your provider offers MyChart but is not employed by Cleveland Clinic, progress notes will not be automatically released.

You are now able to view your Cleveland Clinic Providers’ ambulatory (outpatient) progress notes in MyChart.* At this time, psychiatry notes and all notes for adolescents aged 13–17 years are excluded from release into MyChart.
Abbreviations of Clinical Terminology

It is important to understand that this section of your medical record is written in a way for your doctor and other health professionals on your care team to quickly understand your current medical condition. Because of this, the language may be abbreviated. Below are the definitions for some commonly used clinical abbreviations:

- **BMP:** Basic metabolic panel
- **BP:** Blood pressure
- **C&S:** Culture and sensitivity (performed to detect infection)
- **C/O:** Complains of
- **CBC:** Complete blood count
- **CC:** Chief complaint
- **Chem panel:** Chemistry panel (a blood test that indicates the status of the liver, kidneys, and electrolytes)
- **DDX:** Differential diagnosis (the possible diagnoses being considered)
- **DM:** Diabetes mellitus
- **DOE:** Dyspnea on exertion (shortness of breath with activity)
- **ETOH:** Alcohol intake history
- **H&P:** History and physical
- **HPI:** History of present illness
- **I&D:** Incision and drainage
- **IMP:** Impression
- **LBP:** Low back pain
- **N/V:** Nausea or vomiting
- **P:** Pulse
- **PMH:** Past medical history
- **PRN:** As needed
- **R/O:** Rule out
- **SH:** Social history
- **SOB:** Shortness of breath
- **SQ:** Subcutaneous (underneath the skin)
- **T:** Temperature
- **UA:** Urinalysis
- **URI:** Upper respiratory infection
- **VSS:** Vital signs are stable
- **Wt:** Weight

Locating Your Providers’ Notes in MyChart

Ambulatory progress notes can be found in the “Upcoming & Past Appointments” section of the “Appointments” menu in MyChart. Click on a particular appointment to view the Appointment Details, including progress notes.

Questions or Concerns?

If you have questions regarding a particular note, please address it with your provider at your next appointment.

If you feel that health information we have about you is incorrect, you have the right to ask us to amend your medical records. Your request for an amendment must be in writing, signed, and dated. It must specify the records you wish to amend, identify the Cleveland Clinic facility that maintains those records, and give the reason for your request. You must address your request to the Privacy Official of the Cleveland Clinic hospital or facility that maintains the records you wish to amend or to the Privacy Office CC30, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44195. Cleveland Clinic will respond to you within 60 days. We reserve the right to deny your request; In the event we do deny your request, we will explain why and outline your options.

For more information, please contact the Cleveland Clinic Privacy Office at 216.444.1709 or toll-free at 800.223.2273, ext. 41709.

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