

The Importance of Records in Risk Management

- **Record keeping is a clinical, ethical, and legal activity that provides evidence of how the “*standard of care*” has been met**
- **Decision-making is supported by documentation, and the lack of competent documentation will undermine a practitioner’s legal defense**
- **Inaccurate, insufficient, or nonobjective documentation can lead to a variety of malpractice suits, including defamation of character, use of derogatory words, wrongful reporting, and liability for the actions of others who based their decisions on negligent or inaccurate assessment or record keeping**
- **The lack of documentation does not protect practitioners from lawsuits; instead, this places them in a vulnerable position because there is no evidence to support their professional actions or demonstrate their competence**