



Physicians although demonstrably rational often fail to demonstrate any rationale for many things they do. Many of the medical records I review in appealing Medicare denials fail to document **why** the physician is doing what they are doing:

**Why** does a patient with CHF in the ER need to be admitted?

**Why** is the Hospitalist admitting a patient with COPD?

**Why** does the post-op patient still require hospitalization?

**Why** is the patient with near- syncope being observed?

**Why** does the patient with syncope need carotid studies?

There is a simple cure for **why**; it is called **because**. Every ER note, every H&P, and every progress note should state that you are doing what you are doing **because**.

Being rational we should be able to give a reason **why** for what we are doing. For example, I am writing this little article **because** there is no **because** in many ER notes, H&Ps, consults, and progress notes.

So please say **why** you are doing whatever you are doing for or to your patient – just say **because**. **Because** if you say **because** your documentation will be better and you won't have to read annoying articles like this.

