

## PI FAX & Email ALERT

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### The Easy Clean PI report : Part 3

#### 3. Itemizing Presenting Complaints

- We avoid narratives in all PI reports.
- We prefer bullet point reports
- Presenting complaints need to be itemized, like these bullet points,
- Body part by body part from the head to toes.
- Presenting complaints are usually the same as the "Initial complaints [see Part 2] but enhanced with the increase in the pain due to swelling of tissues, usually when the patient presents to your office days after the trauma.
- Remember the Insurance Method of PI evaluation; ALL symptoms have value. If you don't document the symptom there is NO credit.
- Typically missed symptoms due to trauma:
  - Insomnia
  - Vertigo
  - Fatigue
  - Ears ringing
  - Dizziness

**THE LESSON: Insurance companies' adjusters literally spend lots of time imputing YOUR data into their computers. The computers then digest that information into a value chart. The more credible data, the better the case.**

For copies of Parts 1 and 2 please email John Tawlian at [JohnTawlian@Shawnsteel.com](mailto:JohnTawlian@Shawnsteel.com)

**Fact: In the US, personal injury accidents kill two people and injure 330 others every 10 minutes**

### **The Case of the 3 DC's in Court**

Patricia Griner was traumatized twice. First as a passenger in the front right seat, her car was rearended by a professional football cheerleader.

Patricia alleged she suffered the usual complaints: neck and back sprain/strain. She treated with a DC from Oct 14 to Feb 28 and generated a DC bill for \$4700.00.

The Van Nuys jury voted 10-2 with ONLY 1 hour deliberation to give only \$5000, concluding the impact was "moderate" and the treatment was "excessive".

Brian Pines, DC represented the cheerleader's insurance company. Two DC's testified for the claimant.

**THE LESSON: 50% of any case depends on the patient's likeability and credibility.**

Have a look at our web site how to collect on your PI liens in 3 easy steps. [WWW.SHAWNSTEEL.COM](http://WWW.SHAWNSTEEL.COM)

#### **CMT Coding for Massage : Caution**

Billing expert, Sam Collins, tells us that carriers have stopped paying for massage code 97124 but will pay for manual therapy code 97140.

But DC's might invite trouble by billing massage as manual therapy. Code substitution opens the door for persecution.

Manual therapy is described as mobilization/manipulation, manual lymphatic drainage, manual traction or as "myofascial release" These are techniques directed toward specific muscles typically to resolve shortened fascia, scarring and bigrosis. These are not massages.

**Contact us for a full copy of this article.**