ELM Solutions

How to create billing guidelines that drive value

Executive summary

For legal departments looking to contain costs, increase efficiencies, and improve relationships with outside counsel, billing guidelines are the place to start. Having clear and concise billing guidelines makes everyone's lives easier—and makes enforcing compliance possible.

Effectively managing outside counsel billing compliance starts with the creation of good billing guidelines and is followed by an emphasis on bill review, communication, and a long-term strategic roadmap.

Our eBook, Your guide to improving legal billing guidelines and compliance, takes a closer look at each:

Creating good billing guidelines: Good billing guidelines are marketspecific and aligned with organizational goals. Language is crucial, too. Clarity and brevity are of the utmost importance. The longer and more confusing guidelines are, the less likely they are to be followed and enforced.

Bill review: AI can search for errors, violations, and patterns and help organizations save time and money, reduce errors, and improve processes. Providing your internal experts with AI-enabled bill review has been shown to deliver up to a 20 percent increase in billing guideline compliance.

Educating and engaging outside counsel: Good billing guidelines can help legal departments and outside counsel stay in alignment with each other. By communicating on guidelines through activities like law firm education sessions, you can explain your guidelines and what



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compliance looks like while also nurturing your relationships with law firms. And compliance helps outside counsel prove their value and drive success.

Creating a plan: To reap the benefits of improved billing guidelines and compliance, you need to have a plan that is both fluid and adaptable. Your plan should be updated annually and include a set of measurable program goals that tie back to your organization's overall objectives.

Our eBook offers in-depth advice to help you create and manage effective billing guidelines that improve outcomes and drive value. Topics covered include:

- → What makes well-crafted billing guidelines
- → Benchmarking your guidelines against your peers
- → The value you can derive from improving your billing compliance
- → The three components to successfully managing outside counsel billing compliance
- → Examples of strategic goals that will help you measure success



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