

## Structured Reporting for Outcome Based Practice

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Structured reporting is a tool to standardize and codify the content of radiologic interpretations to facilitate communication. The purpose of communication is between referring clinicians and radiologists. This helps in understanding quality improvement and research. The three elements are headings, itemized reports with discrete short descriptions and use of a standard lexicon.

The basic organizational forms are used. Issue centric reporting describes the most pertinent issue findings first, then subsequently everything else. The content most important is listed first. The organization of the report content for the same examination can be different based on the reason the examination was done.

The contents of each section may be more abbreviated or detailed based on the imaging protocol utilized, but the order is the same in anatomic centric style. This facilitates tracking findings across multiple reports.

Standardizing the format will encourage the more thorough reading of the finding sections. A referring clinician can more rapidly refer to specific sections of concern, even if not discussed in the impression section. This allows tailoring the impression section to elements reflective of the reason for examination or urgent incidental discoveries. This also supports the generation of more complete reports.

The advantage is to create a standardized and codified report, with report details highlighting anatomy and pathology rather than the individual preferences and style choices. Specific elements of interest can more readily be tracked through serial reports. This establishes the framework for computerized processing and sorting of report elements, facilitating the future of medicine from anecdotal to outcome based practice.

This type of reporting promotes interoperability of imaging examinations, simplifies documentation and enables integration of radiology with enterprise system.