

ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES UPDATE 2004

From the Book *MQSA Made Easy* by Bonnie Rush, RT(R)(M)(QM)

□ While the final assessment categories should substantially follow the below described terminology, flexibility is allowed for further description in the written text.

➤ If one final assessment is made it shall be based on the most suspicious finding in one of the below NAMED (BIRAD numbers may be included) categories:

➤ OR a separate assessment category for each breast is allowed without providing an overall assessment of findings with the following stipulations:

⌘ A single medical report covering the assessment of each breast will be provided to the referring physician or to the patient for self-referred patients.

⌘ A single lay report will be provided to the patient based on the overall assessment for both breasts.

⌘ The interpretation will count for only one examination for continuing experience.

⌘ The exam will be billed out as a single exam.

"Negative": Nothing to comment upon.(BIRADS 1)

"Benign" or "Benign Finding(s)": Also a negative assessment (BIRADS 2)

⌘ With Negative and Benign, clinical findings or symptoms must be explained "to the extent possible".

"Probably Benign" or "Probably Benign Finding(s)" Initial short-interval follow-up suggested:

⌘ Finding(s) has a high probability of being benign. (BIRADS 3)

"Suspicious" or "Suspicious Abnormality(ies)": Biopsy should be considered;

⌘ Finding without all the characteristic morphology of breast cancer but indicating a definite probability of being malignant. (BIRADS 4)

"Highly suggestive of malignancy": Finding has a high probability of being malignant. (BIRADS 5)

⌘ Individual assessments for other findings may also be included in the report along with recommendations for their management.

➤ If no final category is assigned due to incomplete work-up:

"Incomplete: Need additional imaging evaluation" or "Incomplete: Need additional imaging evaluation and/or prior mammograms for comparison" shall be assigned. (BIRADS 0)

⌘ The reason for this assessment must be stated in the report. The recommendations of additional actions, if any, shall be included.

⌘ FDA stated if a patient can be brought back within the 5-day time frame for the additional imaging an "Incomplete" would not need to be dictated.

If a mammographic modality is recommended then a final report must be completed to include one of the final assessments.

⌘ If a non-mammographic modality is recommended it can remain as an "incomplete". However the FDA recommends that if possible a combined report and lay summary be dictated and communicated.

□ New alternative assessment categories

"Known Biopsy Proven Malignancy" Appropriate action should be taken. (BIRADS 6)

"Post Procedure Mammograms for Marker Placement" (No BIRADS equivalent)

⌘ Used only for post procedure mammogram to confirm the deployment and position of a breast tissue marker. The lay summary, which must be provided to the patient, must be specific to the procedure.

⌘ If the facility makes this post procedure examination part of the interventional study instead of a separately charged examination, then it does not fall under MQSA and the approved alternative standard does not apply.