

Radiology, Pathology and Lab Results

Did you know?

Radiology reports, pathology diagnoses and laboratory results cannot be coded unless the clinician corroborates or documents the clinical significance of those findings in the medical record.

Cannot Be Coded	Can Be Coded
Chest X-ray impression: pneumonia	Attending physician’s progress note diagnoses ‘pneumonia’
Pathology diagnoses squamous cell carcinoma on biopsy report	Attending physician documents squamous cell carcinoma as diagnosis in the discharge summary
Na+ = 126 on a chemistry panel	Hyponatremia documented in the progress notes by the attending physician

Use this terminology to show an SOI that accurately reflects how sick your patient is in the bed.

Remember hospital documentation can include “possible, probable or suspected” diagnoses.