

Template Reporting

Template or standardized reporting as compared to free prose reporting is becoming more accepted in medical imaging. It allows a “checklist” mentality to ensure that all the information that the clinician is seeking with imaging is commented on. It also allows straight forward written communication with less ambiguity.¹ Template reporting can prevent the reinterpretation of CT scans when patients are transferred for care, thus saving time and resources.^{2,3}

See **Appendix E** for a suggested template for reporting trauma CT imaging.

¹ Schwartz LH, Panicek DM, Berk AR, Li Y, Hricak H. Improving Communication of Diagnostic Radiology Findings through Structured Reporting. *Radiology*. 2011 Jul 1;260(1):174–81.

² Kahn CE, Heilbrun ME, Applegate KE. From guidelines to practice: How reporting templates promote the use of radiology practice guidelines. *J Am Coll Radiol*. 2013 Apr;10(4):268–73.

³ Johnson AJ, Chen MYM, Swan JS, Applegate KE, Littenberg B. Cohort study of structured reporting compared with conventional dictation. *Radiology*. 2009 Oct;253(1):74–80.