

OET Case Notes

Radiography · Intermediate · Referral letter · to Referring Consultant (Respiratory Physician)

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OET Case Notes: Radiography — Chest CT Findings Report (Intermediate)

THE CASE NOTES

Patient: Mr David Morrison, 62 years old

Reason for CT: Incidental 12 mm pulmonary nodule on chest X-ray during pre-operative assessment

Scan performed: CT thorax with contrast (2 mm slice thickness)

Right upper lobe: 12 × 10 mm soft tissue nodule, well-defined margins, non-calcified, no satellite nodules; Fleischner category CT-2

Hilar/mediastinal nodes: No pathological lymphadenopathy

Lung parenchyma: Background centrilobular emphysema bilaterally, consistent with smoking history; no consolidation, pleural effusion, or pneumothorax

Clinical history: Ex-smoker (30 pack-years, quit 8 years ago); no haemoptysis, weight loss, or systemic symptoms

Impression: Indeterminate 12 mm RUL nodule; malignancy cannot be excluded; surveillance recommended

Task: Write a report letter to referring consultant Dr Claire Nguyen summarising the CT chest findings, your impression, and your recommendation for follow-up.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

+ The nodule's size, location, and key characteristics (margins, calcification)

These are the decision-relevant imaging features. The consultant needs them to classify risk and plan follow-up. Size without location or margin detail is incomplete.

+ The Fleischner category and recommended follow-up interval

Using the Fleischner classification frames the recommendation within an evidence-based guideline, which is expected in a radiography report letter.

+ The background emphysema with reference to the smoking history

Incidental findings relevant to the clinical background must be included. Emphysema in a 30-pack-year ex-smoker is clinically significant and contextualises nodule risk.

WHAT TO LEAVE OUT

– Technical imaging parameters beyond slice thickness (kV, mA, dose report)

These belong in the technical record, not the clinical letter. The consultant needs findings and recommendations, not radiation physics.

– Listing all normal structures

Mention normal structures only if the clinical question required their exclusion. Listing everything normal pads the letter without adding clinical value.

CRITERION IN FOCUS · CONCISENESS & CLARITY

Radiology report letters are among the most concise in clinical correspondence. The examiner penalises redundancy: '12 × 10 mm well-defined non-calcified nodule' carries the same information as a much longer description in 40% of the words. Every adjective must earn its place. If removing it would not change the consultant's decision, cut it.

Write this letter, then get it marked at oetwritingcorrection.com/oet-writing-services