

In order to promote consistency and clarity in the interpretation of mammograms, the final regulations require that each mammographic report include an overall final assessment of the mammography examination, classified into one of the following six categories: Negative, Benign, Probably Benign, Suspicious, Highly Suggestive of Malignancy, and Incomplete: Need additional imaging evaluation. While the final assessment findings must not vary from these categories and must be stated as written above, limited flexibility is allowed for further description as long as it doesn't change the meaning of the category. The following are considered equivalent to the wording listed in the final regulations and are acceptable final overall assessments.

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY AND APPROVED EQUIVALENTS	NUMERIC CODE
Incomplete: Need Additional Imaging Evaluation Incomplete: Needs Additional Imaging Evaluation, Incomplete: Additional Imaging Evaluation Needed, Incomplete: Need Additional Imaging Evaluation- Comparison with Prior Studies, Incomplete: Need additional imaging evaluation and/or prior mammograms for comparison, Incomplete: Need prior mammograms for comparison, Need Additional Imaging Evaluation (the term "Incomplete" can be inferred in this example as this is the only Incomplete BIRADS assessment category), Incomplete Mammogram: Need Additional Imaging Evaluation	0
Negative Negative Mammogram	1
Benign Benign Finding, Benign Findings, Benign Abnormality, Benign Abnormalities, Benign Mammogram	2
Probably Benign Probably Benign Finding, Probably Benign Findings, Probably Benign Abnormality, Probably Benign Abnormalities, Probably Benign- Short Interval Follow-up Suggested, Probably Benign Finding - Short Interval Follow-up Suggested, Probably Benign Mammogram	3
Suspicious Suspicious Finding, Suspicious Findings, Suspicious Abnormality, Suspicious Abnormalities, Suspicious for Malignancy, Suspicious of Malignancy, Suspicious Abnormality - Biopsy Should Be Considered, Suspicious Finding - Biopsy Should Be Considered, Suspicious Mammogram	4
Highly Suggestive of Malignancy Highly Suggestive for Malignancy, Highly Suggestive of Malignancy - Appropriate Action Should Be Taken	5
Known Biopsy Proven Malignancy Known Biopsy Proven Cancer, Known Malignancy, Known Cancer	6
Post Procedure Mammograms for Marker Placement	

There is no MQSA requirement that any specific assessment code (BI-RADS) be assigned to these assessments. Also, there is no specific MQSA reporting format required for the report, apart from the requirement that an overall assessment category be included within.

NOTE: The State of Iowa rules require a separate and distinct section entitled "Assessment" followed by the appropriate assessment term as explained above.