

## April 16: COVID-19 Clinical Update

### Disaster Documentation and COVID-19 Order Panel

*This daily communication is intended to facilitate the sharing of important clinical information during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis and to help respond to questions from physicians across Northwestern Medicine.*

Today's issue focuses on new changes in Epic that were implemented to reduce documentation requirements for physicians and APPs during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the COVID-19 Order Panel and other projects underway to improve clinician efficiency and reduce administrative tasks.

#### **DISASTER DOCUMENTATION**

Northwestern Medicine is working around the clock to provide safe care for patients and support clinicians during this busy time. The Health Informatics team has partnered with clinical and operational leaders to identify and implement electronic health record tools that reduce documentation, clicks and alerts to provide administrative relief for clinicians while providing the necessary detail regarding the patient's diagnosis and clinical course.

- **Disaster Note types:** Disaster H&P, Disaster Progress Note, Disaster Procedure Note and Disaster Discharge Summary are available in Epic as default Disaster Note templates that contain the minimum clinically relevant elements.
  - Continue to document diagnosis, assessment and plan in detail.
  - Use of Disaster Notes is optional.
  - Add additional clinically relevant details in Notes.
  - Surgeries require an Operative Note.

Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) queries will continue during disaster documentation. During a surge, we will suspend most CDI queries; follow-up queries will be issued at a later date. View the [Disaster Mode Policy](#) (NMI login required), [Disaster Note Template tip sheet](#) and [Guidelines for Minimal Provider Documentation During an Emergency](#) for more information.

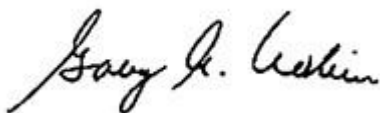
- **Deficiency-related communication:** Administrative suspension for outstanding deficiencies and related notifications for missing H&P, outpatient report or discharge summary will be paused temporarily. Please continue to use InBasket to monitor and complete deficiencies. Completing one of the Disaster Notes will satisfy the related deficiency.

#### **COVID-19 ORDER PANEL**

The COVID-19 Order Panel has been updated to align with the recent expansion of testing for patients who are undergoing obstetrical or surgical procedures. The COVID-19 test name has changed from "Covid-19 PCR" to "SARS-CoV-2 NAT," as the test is assessing the presence of SARS-CoV-2, and all assays are nucleic acid tests (NAT). Tests will map to the appropriate instrumentation based on patient populations needs in the background. View the [COVID-19 Order Panel tip sheet](#) for additional details.

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Thank you to all Northwestern Medicine healthcare providers on the front lines of this crisis for your continued dedication and collaboration in providing exceptional care to the patients and communities we serve. If you have any questions, or would like to share the story of an NM hero, please email us at [covid-19md@nm.org](mailto:covid-19md@nm.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary A. Noskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Noskin" clearly legible.

**Gary A. Noskin, MD**  
Senior Vice President, Quality  
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare  
Chief Medical Officer  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital