

## PROBLEM LIST STOPLIGHT

### RED

Do not include	Reason
"Upper respiratory infection"	Acute condition
"Encounter for (test, supervision, physical examination, immunization, etc.)"	"Overdue for [item]" might be appropriate, but most EHRs have a better place for this
"Acute gout"	Gout can be a chronic problem, but do not include if specified as acute
"Laceration"	Acute (resolves after healed)
"Multiple melanocytic nevi of trunk"	Too common; does not change treatment
"Abnormal MRI of brain"	Too vague to be useful; use more specific description
"Feared complaint unfounded"	Diagnoses ruled out may be appropriate for inpatient setting, but not outpatient

### YELLOW

Use with care, change when more information is available	Instruction
"Skin neoplasm of uncertain character"	Resolve when biopsy is available
"Lung mass"	Specify when more information is available
"Cataracts"	Resolve after surgery
"Term singleton birth"	Resolve on first outpatient visit
"Arthritis"	Consider more specific problem, such as "Arthritis generalized," "Arthritis, hip," or "Inflammatory arthritis"
Use in some circumstances	Instruction
"History of tonsillectomy"	Use if not included in surgical history list
"Pneumococcal pneumonia"	Use instead of "History of pneumococcal pneumonia" (when active)
"History of aspiration pneumonia"	Use when it affects current treatment (e.g., to explain dietary restrictions)
"Born by Cesarean"	Use when it explains other conditions
"History of mastectomy"	Move to surgical history list when it no longer affects current treatment, but keep "History of breast cancer" on the problem list for up to 10 years after treatment

### GREEN

Use in most circumstances	Reason
"Adenocarcinoma of lung, stage 3"	Use while undergoing treatment, then change to "History of lung cancer" when treatment and surveillance complete
"History of gastric bypass"	Requires ongoing surveillance
"Blindness"	Important to know for all those caring for patient
"Gout" (chronic or recurrent)	Affects treatment choices
"Presence of pacemaker / ICD"	Affects treatment choices
"Low literacy"	May alter the way information is given



**FPM Toolbox** To find more practice resources, visit <https://www.aafp.org/fpm/toolbox>.

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