The authors and reviewers have made every attempt to ensure the information in this Family Medicine Clinical Card is correct. It is possible that errors may exist. Accordingly, the source references or other authorities should be consulted to aid in determining the assessment and management plan of patients. The Card is not meant to replace customized patient assessment or clinical judgment. The Card is meant to highlight key considerations in particular clinical scenarios, largely informed by relevant guidelines in effect at the time of publication. The authors cannot assume any liability for patient outcomes when this card is used.

**Canadian Family Medicine Clinical Card**

**Findings that require immediate attention:**

- **Tracheal Shift:** may indicate a tension pneumothorax on the side opposite to the tracheal shift. If suspected on Hx/exam, don’t do CXR; immediately decompress
- **Free air under R hemi-diaphragm:** bowel perforation, urgent surgery consult needed. (Note that air under L hemi-diaphragm is usually the gastric bubble)
- **Massive cavitations & infiltrates, especially in upper lobes, in the context of cough & fever:** suspect active tuberculosis, isolate patient and work up to establish diagnosis
- **Complete white-out of lung fields:** severe pulmonary edema, stabilize and transport for definitive ER/ICU care

**Most common CXR false-negatives (real findings that were not detected):**

- Airspace disease (i.e. consolidation)
- Apical and retro-cardiac densities
- Solitary pulmonary nodules
- Mediastinal widening
- Cardiomegaly, changes in heart contour

**Ask for previous CXRs to track CXR changes, especially to monitor solitary pulmonary nodules for any changes**

**Lower lung lobes can normally appear to be opacified by both breast and fatty tissue**

**4. Important notes to keep in mind:**

- Findings that require immediate attention:
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  - Free air under R hemi-diaphragm: bowel perforation, urgent surgery consult needed. (Note that air under L hemi-diaphragm is usually the gastric bubble)
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