

2021

What To Order When

A Guide To The Most Common Clinical
Indications Related To Radiology



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CT

The following are general guidelines to follow the most common clinical indications related to radiology. It is important to start with the least invasive study (e.g. pelvic ultrasound before ordering CT), and to protect the patient from any unnecessary radiation and contrast exposure.

HEAD & NECK

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
SINUS	Polyps Post nasal drip Sinusitis Surgical Planning	NO	NO	CT sinus complete w/o contrast	70486
FACE	Cellulitis Infection/abscess Soft Tissue Mass	YES	NO	CT maxillofacial soft tissue w/contrast	70487
	Injury/trauma, concern of fracture	NO	NO	CT maxillofacial bones w/o contrast	70486
ORBITS	Injury/trauma, concern of fracture	NO	NO	CT orbits w/o contrast	70480
	Mass Proptosis Infection Swelling Vision changes	YES	NO	CT orbits w/wo contrast	70482
TEMPORAL BONES	Otitis Media Cholesteatoma Conductive hearing loss Mastoiditis	NO	NO	CT temporal bones (includes mastoids) w/o contrast	70480
SOFT TISSUE NECK	Adenopathy Dysphagia Infection/abscess Mass/neoplasm Vocal cord paralysis	YES	NO	CT neck soft tissue w/contrast	70491
	Salivary gland calculi/adenitis Parathyroid adenoma Foreign body	YES	NO	CT neck soft tissue w/wo contrast	70492

SPINE (in patient with history of cancer contrast may be indicated)

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
CERVICAL SPINE	Evaluate hardware/fusion status Degenerative changes R/O Fx	NO	NO	CT spine, cervical w/o contrast	72125
THORACIC SPINE	Evaluate hardware/fusion status Degenerative changes R/O Fx	NO	NO	CT spine, thoracic w/o contrast	72128
LUMBAR SPINE	Evaluate hardware/fusion status Degenerative changes R/O Fx	NO	NO	CT spine, lumbar w/o contrast	72131

CT

CHEST

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
CHEST	Asthma Atelectasis Bronchiectasis COPD Cough Interstitial Lung Disease Emphysema Follow up pulmonary nodule Injury/trauma Pericardial effusion Pleural effusion Pneumothorax Pulmonary nodule Rib Fracture	NO	NO	CT chest w/o contrast	71250
	Abnormality involving hilum Empyema Infiltrate Lung cancer Mass/Empyema Pneumonia Work up of other cancer/ malignancy	YES	NO	CT chest w/contrast	71260
LUNG	History of smoking	NO	NO	Low Dose Lung Cancer CT	G0297

ARTHROGRAM

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
UPPER EXTREMITIES	Shoulder, r/o internal derangement (rotator cuff, biceps/labrum) Elbow and Wrist (if patient cannot tolerate MRI; contraindications from implants, etc.)	Intra-articular	NO	CT Upper Extremity w/o contrast	73200
				CT Upper Extremity w/contrast	73201
				CT Upper Extremity w/wo contrast	73202
LOWER EXTREMITIES	Knee (ligaments, meniscus) Hip and Ankle (if patient cannot tolerate MRI; contraindications from implants, etc.)	Intra-articular	NO	CT Lower Extremity w/o contrast	73700
				CT Lower Extremity w/contrast	73701
				CT Lower Extremity w/wo contrast	73702

CT

ANGIOGRAPHY (CTA)

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
HEAD	Stenosis (MRA Preferred) Aneurysm	YES	NO	CT angio brain w/wo contrast	70496
NECK	Carotid stenosis (pre-op eval), Dissection, Treated aneurysm	YES	NO	CT angio neck w/wo contrast	70498
CHEST	Suspected PE or evaluation of chronic PE Thoracic aneurysm (if ascending, must have cardiac gating)	YES	NO	CT spine, chest w/contrast	72175
ABDOMEN	Abdominal aortic aneurysm	YES	NO	CT angio abdomen w/wo contrast	74175
ABDOMEN & PELVIS	Mesenteric ischemia Pre op AAA surgery Pre or post-op evaluation Post stent grafting	YES	NO	CT angio abdomen/ pelvis w/wo contrast	74174
ABDOMEN & PELVIS W/ RUNOFF	Intermittent claudication Lower extremity ischemia Peripheral vascular disease	YES	NO	CT angio abdominal aorta and bilateral iliofemoral with BLE runoff w/contrast	75635
				CT angio BLE's to include bifurcation of aorta into iliac vessels w/contrast CT angio BLE's w/contrast	73706
EXTREMITIES	Aneurysm Arterial occlusion/stenosis Claudication Cold foot Gangrene Pain Ulcer Venous occlusion/thrombosis (if patient cannot tolerate MRI; contraindications from implants, etc.)	YES	NO	CT angio Upper Extremity w/contrast	73206
				CT angio Lower Extremity w/contrast	73706

EXTREMITIES

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
UPPER EXTREMITIES	R/O Arthritis Fracture (if patient cannot tolerate MRI; contraindications from implants, etc.)	NO	NO	CT Upper Extremity w/o contrast	73200
				CT Upper Extremity w/contrast	73201
				CT Upper Extremity w/wo contrast	73202
LOWER EXTREMITIES	R/O Arthritis Fracture (if patient cannot tolerate MRI; contraindications from implants, etc.)	NO	NO	CT Lower Extremity w/o contrast	73700
				CT Lower Extremity w/contrast	73701
				CT Lower Extremity w/wo contrast	73702

ABDOMEN & PELVIS

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
ABDOMEN	Renal mass	YES	WATER	CT renals triple phase w/wo contrast - ABDOMEN	74170
	Abnormal liver enzymes Jaundice Liver mass	YES	WATER	Multiphase CT abdomen/liver w/wo contrast	74170
	Pancreatitis Jaundice Pancreatic mass	YES	WATER	Multiphase CT abdomen/liver w/wo contrast	74170
ABDOMEN & PELVIS	Abdominal pain Abnormal labs Abscess Adenopathy Ascites Injury/trauma Metastasis Pancreatitis Pelvic pain Tumor/mass Unexplained weight loss Diverticulosis Diverticulitis Appendicitis Lymphoma Hiatal Hernia	YES	YES	CT abdomen/pelvis w/contrast and Oral Contrast	74177
	Ventral, umbilical hernia	NO	NO	CT abdomen w/o contrast (with contrast if painful)	74176
STONE PROTOCOL	Flank pain Renal stones	NO	NO	CT abdomen/pelvis w/o contrast	74176
UROGRAM	Hydronephrosis (w/o flank pain) Flank pain Renal Stones Hematuria	YES	NO	CT w/wo contrast (aka urogram)	74178
SOFT TISSUE PELVIS	Adenopathy Mass Pain	YES	YES	CT pelvis w/contrast	72193
SOFT TISSUE PELVIS	Inguinal Hernia	NO	NO	CT pelvis w/o contrast (w/contrast if painful)	72192
BONY PELVIS	Trauma, concern for fracture Hip/SI joint w/ degenerative disease	NO	NO	CT pelvis w/o contrast	72192

These recommendations are a general guideline and may not be applicable to everyone.

MRI

BRAIN

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
BRAIN	CVA/TIA Dizziness Memory loss Trauma Tremors	NO	NO	MRI brain w/o contrast	70551
	Chiari Malformation Infection Lesions (specify) Multiple sclerosis Neurofibromatosis Seizures Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI brain w/wo contrast	70553
	IAC lesion/hearing loss/ infection	YES	NO	MRI brain and IAC's w/wo contrast	70553
	Trigeminal neuralgia	YES	NO	MRI brain Trigeminal w/wo contrast	70553
	Pituitary mass, elevated prolactin	YES	NO	MRI brain Pituitary w/wo contrast	70553
ORBITS	Diplopia Hyperthyroidism (e.g. Graves disease) Nystagmus Strabismus Tumor/mass/metastasis Unexplained vision loss Unilateral vision defect	YES	NO	MRI orbits w/wo contrast	70543
FACE	Infection Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI face w/contrast	70543
	Trauma	NO	NO	MRI face w/o contrast	70540

CHEST

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
CHEST	Chest wall pain (CT exam is preferred) Rib pain (CT exam is preferred) Sternoclavicular joint/ clavicle/scapula pain	NO	NO	MRI MSK chest w/o contrast	71550
BREAST	Silicone implant rupture	NO	NO	MRI breast w/o contrast -implant rupture study	77059
	High risk for malignancy Newly diagnosed breast cancer Problem Solving-unresolved diagnostic mammography	YES	NO	MRI breast w/wo contrast -malignancy study	77049
SOFT TISSUE	Mediastinal Mass	YES	NO	MRI w/contrast and w/o IV contrast	71552

MRI

ABDOMEN & PELVIS

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
ABDOMEN	MRCP (biliary/pancreatic ducts, stones, jaundice)	NO	NO	MRI abd/panc/biliary tree w/o contrast	74181
	Liver disease Mass (adrenal, liver, pancreatic, renal)	YES	NO	MRI abdomen w/wo contrast	74183
MR ENTEROGRAPHY	Bowel obstructions Evaluate small bowel Crohn's disease Ulcerative Colitis	YES	NO	MR Enterography	74183 + 72197
MSK PELVIS	MSK pain - SI joints, sacrum, coccyx Muscle tear Osteomyelitis	NO	NO	MRI pelvis w/o contrast	72195
SOFT TISSUE PELVIS	Abscess Adenomyosis Endometrial abnormalities Fibroid Prostate cancer Septic arthritis Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI pelvis w/wo contrast	72197

EXTREMITIES

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
NON-JOINT EXTREMITY: HAND=FINGER, ARM, FOOT =TOE, LEG	Morton's neuroma Muscle/tendon tear Osteomyelitis Stress/fracture	NO	NO	MRI upper extremity, non-joint w/o contrast	73218
				MRI lower extremity, non-joint w/o contrast	73718
	Abscess Cellulitis Foot osteomyelitis in diabetic patients Osteomyelitis Tumor/mass/metastasis (soft tissue)	YES	NO	MRI upper extremity, non-joint w/o contrast	73220
				MRI lower extremity, non-joint w/wo contrast	73720
JOINT EXTREMITY: SHOULDER, ELBOW, WRIST HIP, KNEE, ANKLE	Arthritis AVN Joint pain Ligament/tendon muscle/cartilage/labral tear (initial study) Stress/fracture	NO	NO	MRI upper extremity, joint w/o contrast	73221
				MRI lower extremity, joint w/o contrast	73721
	Abscess Cellulitis Inflammatory arthritis Septic arthritis Synovitis Tumor/mass	YES	NO	MRI upper extremity, joint w/wo contrast	73223
				MRI lower extremity, joint w/wo contrast	73723

MRI

NEUROGRAM

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
BRACHIAL PLEXUS	Brachial plexus injury Nerve avulsion Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI brachial plexus w/wo contrast -brachial plexus protocol	73220-22
LUMBOSACRAL PLEXUS	Lumbosacral plexus injury Nerve avulsion Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI lumbosacral plexus w/wo contrast	72197

HEAD & NECK

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
NECK SOFT TISSUE	Dysphagia Infection Persistent hoarseness Tumor/mass/metastasis Vocal cord paralysis	YES	NO	MRI soft tissue neck w/wo contrast	72156

ANGIOGRAPHY (MRA)

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
MRA ABDOMEN	Abdominal aortic aneurysm Dissection Mesenteric ischemia Renal artery stenosis/aneurysm Vasculitis	YES	NO	MRA abdomen w/wo contrast	74185
MRA EXTREMITIES	Aneurysm Arterial occlusion/stenosis Claudication Cold foot Gangrene Pain Ulcer Venous occlusion/thrombosis	YES	NO	MRA abd aorta, bilateral iliofemoral w/runoff w/wo contrast MRA bilateral lower extremities w/wo contrast	74185 +72198 +73725 -50 73725 -50
MRA HEAD	Headaches Stenosis AVM (MRI brain w/wo contrast) CVA/TIA Aneurysm Strong family history of cerebral aneurysms	NO	NO	MRI angio head w/o contrast	70544
	Dissection (CTA preferred), History of treated aneurysm	YES	NO	MRI angio head w/wo contrast	70546
MRV HEAD	Venous thrombosis	YES	NO	MRI venogram head w/wo contrast	70546
MRA NECK	Stenosis Aneurysm AVM CVA/TIA Dissection/vessel injury (CTA preferred) Subclavian steal	YES	NO	MRI angio neck w/wo contrast	70549

MRI

SPINE

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
CERVICAL	Neck Pain Radiculopathy Degenerative disc disease/herniation Canal Stenosis Compression fracture	NO	NO	MRI spine cervical w/o contrast	72141
	MS Discitis/osteomyelitis Post-op pain Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI spine, cervical w/wo contrast	72156
THORACIC	Radiculopathy Degenerative disc disease/herniation Canal Stenosis Compression fracture	NO	NO	MRI spine, thoracic w/o contrast	72146
	MS Discitis/osteomyelitis Post-op pain Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI spine, thoracic w/wo contrast	72147
LUMBAR	Radiculopathy Degenerative disc disease/herniation Canal Stenosis Compression fracture	NO	NO	MRI spine, lumbar w/o contrast	72148
	MS Discitis/osteomyelitis Post-op pain Tumor/mass/metastasis	YES	NO	MRI spine, lumbar w/wo contrast	72149

ARTHROGRAMS

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
WRIST	Ligament tear (pre and post-op)	Intra-articular	NO	MRI arthrogram wrist	73222+ 25246+ 77002
ELBOW	Ligament tear Loose bodies (pre and post-op)	Intra-articular	NO	MRI arthrogram elbow	73222+ 24220+ 77002
SHOULDER	Labral tear Rotator cuff (post-op)	Intra-articular	NO	MRI arthrogram shoulder	73222+ 23350+ 77002
HIP	Labral/Ligament tear (pre and post-op)	Intra-articular	NO	MRI arthrogram hip	73222+ 27093+ 77002
KNEE	Meniscus (post-op)	Intra-articular	NO	MRI arthrogram knee	73722+ 27370+ 77002
ANKLE	Osteochondral lesion (post-op)	Intra-articular	NO	MRI arthrogram ankle	73222+ 27648+ 77002

MRI

PROSTATE

Body Part	Reason for exam	IV Contrast	Oral Contrast	Procedure Name	Code
PROSTATE (DETECTION)	Elevated PSA Rising PSA following treatment for malignant neoplasm of Prostate Palpable nodule Pre-biopsy evaluation Prior negative biopsy Stable active surveillance and stable post HIFU	YES	NO	MRI Prostate w/wo contrast with 3D-Rendering	72197 76377
PROSTATE (STAGING & RECURRENCE)	Positive biopsy for pretreatment evaluation Active surveillance with rising PSA Post HIFU with rising PSA Post biopsy PSA relapse from either RP or RT	YES	NO	MRI Prostate w/wo contrast with 3D-Rendering	72197 76377
PROSTATE (BONES & NODES)	PSA relapse Post treatment Initial staging high risk patient	YES	NO	MRI Prostate w/wo contrast	72148 72146
PROSTATE (RADIATION TREATMENT PLANNING/ HYDROGEL SPACER CONFIRMATION - LIMITED EXAM)	Limited to high quality axial, sagittal T2, axial gradient echo to evaluate for fiducial seed placement No need for diffusion, or contrast exam, or large field view of pelvis	NO	NO	MRI Prostate wo contrast	72195

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ULTRASOUND

Body Part	Reason for exam	Code
THYROID	Elevated calcium/abnormal thyroid blood work Enlarged thyroid gland History of thyroid cancer Hyper/hypothyroidism Mass Multinodular goiter Parathyroid adenomas	76536
SOFT TISSUE NECK	Lymph node Parotid Sub mandibular mass	76536
CAROTIDS	Amaurosis Fugax Aphasia Ataxia Bruit Hemiplegia Syncope Transient vision loss Vertigo/dizziness	93880
CHEST	Pleural effusion Palpable/Superficial Mass	76604
BREAST	Abnormal mammographic findings Palpable mass Targeted area of pain	76642 x2
ABDOMINAL AORTA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening of follow-up Bruit Pulsatile aorta	76775
ABDOMEN	Abnormal LFT'S/fatty liver Cirrhosis of hepatic disease Gallstones Hepatomegaly Jaundice Pain Splenomegaly	76770
PELVIS-FEMALE	Adnexal abnormalities Dysfunctional uterine bleeding Enlarged uterus or ovary Excessive bleeding/pain after surgery Fibroid uterus Localization of intrauterine contraceptive device +X-Ray Pelvis/csdom Pelvis/Abdomen DX X-Ray Menstrual cycle irregularities Ovarian cyst Ovarian torsion Pain PCOS Precocious puberty Post menopausal bleeding	Tras Vaginal only - 76830 Trans Abdominal only - 76856 TV and TA - 76856 & 76830

ULTRASOUND

Body Part	Reason for exam	Code
PELVIS-MALE	Bladder Only General Pain Urinary Frequency	76856
SCROTUM	Epididymitis Hydrocele (swelling) Mass Pain Trauma Torsion Undescended testes Varicocele	76870
KIDNEY & BLADDER	Bladder diverticula Hematuria Hydronephrosis Neurogenic bladder Renal failure/disease Renal stone Trauma UTI/cystitis/pyelonephritis Urinary retention	Renal Only 76775 Renal and Bladder 76770 Bladder Only 76857
UPPER OR LOWER EXTREMITY (NON VASCULAR) (SOFT TISSUE)	Fluid collection Palpable Mass	76882
UPPER OR LOWER EXTREMITY (VENOUS DOPPLER)	Calf pain DVT follow-up Edema/swelling Positive Homan sign	93970
ARTERIAL BRACHIAL INDEX (ABI)	Claudication PAD PVD Diabetes Weak Pedal Pulses Rest Pain	93923

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OUR LOCATIONS

Center	Address	Phone	Fax
Ahwatukee	4530 E. Ray Rd. Ste. 160, Phoenix, AZ 85044	(480) 893-1004	(480) 893-0306
Apache Junction	1840 W. Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85120	(480) 288-6400	(480) 288-4079
Casa Grande	1669 E. McMurray Blvd., Casa Grande, AZ 85122	(520) 876-0297	(520) 876-0167
Gilbert	4915 E. Baseline Rd. Ste. 116, Gilbert, AZ 85234	(480) 354-9200	(480) 354-9201
Maricopa	21300 N. John Wayne Pkwy. Ste. 113, Maricopa, AZ 85139	(520) 568-6411	(520) 568-6312
Phoenix Osborn	444 W. Osborn Rd. Ste. 105, Phoenix, AZ 85013	(602) 277-4111	(602) 277-1333
Tempe	2501 E. Southern Ave. Ste. 8, Tempe, AZ 85282	(480) 820-2021	(480) 345-7080

