

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCANS Exam Reference / Protocol Guidelines

For additional information on CT and other radiologic exams, please consult the American College of Radiology's ACR Appropriateness Criteria® document found at www.ACR.org.

AREA OF INTEREST HEAD	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	ORAL CONTRAST	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES
	BRAIN	Bleed, trauma, headaches	NO	NO	CT Brain without	70450
		Mass, tumor, infection, melanoma, HIV, meningioma, mets staging	NO	YES	CT Brain with and without	70470
	CTA HEAD	Aneurysm	NO	YES	CTA Head	70496
	CTA NECK	Carotid Occlusion	NO	YES	CTA Neck	70498
	ORBITS	Trauma, fracture, foreign body	NO	NO	CT Orbits without	70480
		Mass, abcess, pain, swelling, Graves disease, cellulitis	NO	YES	CT Orbits with	70481
	SINUS	Sinusitus, mass, pain, polyps, deviated septum, congestion, foreign body	NO	NO	CT Sinus without	70486
	FACE	Trauma, fracture	NO	NO	CT Maxillofacial	70486
	TEMPORAL BONES	Cholestatoma, tinnitis, congenital hearing loss	NO	NO	CT Temporal Bones without	70480
	SOFT TISSUE NECK	Palpable neck mass, stone, neoplasm	NO	YES	CT Neck with and without	70492
		Lymphoma, lymphadenopathy	NO	YES	CT Neck with and without	70492
		Parotid swelling, vocal chord paralysis	NO	NO	CT Neck without	70490
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AREA OF INTEREST ABDOMEN	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	ORAL CONTRAST	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES
	ABDOMEN: from lung base to illiac crest	Pain	YES	NO	CT Abdomen Pelvis without	74176
	PELVIS: from iliac crest to pubis	Pain, fracture, arthritis, mets, bone lesion	NO	NO	CT Pelvis without	72192
		Soft tissue mass, tumor, abcess, infection, cellulitis	YES	YES	CT Pelvis with	72193
	ABDOMEN AND PELVIS GENERAL: from lung base to pubis	Mass, hernia, diverticulitis, appendicitis, restaging CA, nausea, vomiting	YES	YES	CT Pelvis with and without	74178
	ABDOMEN/ PELVIS: Enterography	Crohn's disease, small bowel obstruction	YES Arrive 1 hour prior to appt. time, patient must drink oral contrast in the office	YES	35 years of age or older: CT Abdomen with and without Pelvis with	74178
					35 years of age or younger: CT Abdomen and Pelvis with only	74176
	LIVER	Increase LFTs, RUQ pain, jaundice, liver cancer, cirrhosis, hepatoma, hemangioma, hepatitis	YES	YES	CT Abdomen with and without CT Pelvis with	74178



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AREA OF INTEREST RENAL	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	ORAL CONTRAST	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES
	RENAL	Renal stone	NO	NO	CT Abdomen without Pelvis without	74176
		Mass	NO	YES	CT Abdomen with and without CT Pelvis with	74178
	URINARY SYSTEM	Hematuria	NO	YES	CT Abdomen with and without CT Pelvis with and without	74178
	WITH 3D					76377
	CTA ABDOMEN	AAA, renal artery stenosis, dissection, hypertension	NO	YES	CTA Abdomen	74175
	CTA ABDOMEN AND PELVIS	AAA, renal artery stenosis, dissection, hypertension	NO	YES	CTA Abdomen and Pelvis	74174
	CTA RUNOFF	(PAD) Peripheral Artery Disease	NO	YES	CTA Abdomen Aorta Runoff	75635
	CHEST	Nodule, opacities seen	NO	NO	CT Chest without	71250
		Hilar adenopathy, lung cancer	NO	YES	CT Chest with	71260
	CTA CHEST	Pulmonary embolism Aneurysm	NO	YES	CTA Chest	71275
	HIGH RESOLUTION	Interstitial lung disease	NO	NO	CT Chest high resolution without	70490
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AREA OF INTEREST EXTREMITIES	BODY PART EXAM	REASON FOR EXAM	ORAL CONTRAST	IV CONTRAST	PROCEDURES TO PRE-CERT	CODES
	UPPER EXTREMITIES: hand, wrist, elbow, forearm, humerus, shoulder	Pain, arthritis, fracture, fusion, malunion	NO	NO	CT Upper Extremity without contrast	73200
		Infection, tumor, mass, cancer, mets (MRI is more sensitive)	NO	YES	CT Upper Extremity with contrast	73201
	LOWER EXTREMITIES: foot, ankle, knee, hip, tibia, fibula, femur	Pain, arthritis, fracture, fusion, malunion	NO	NO	CT Lower Extremity without contrast	73700
	tibia, jibala, jemai	Infection, tumor, mass, cancer, mets (MRI is more sensitive)	NO	YES	CT Lower Extremity with contrast	73701
	CERVICAL SPINE	Immediate Post-op	NO	YES	CT Cervical Spine with	72126
©2016 Advanced Radiology Consultants		Neck pain, fracture, eval hardware	NO	NO	CT Cervical Spine without	72125
	THORACIC SPINE	Immediate Post-op	NO	YES	CT Thoracic Spine with	72129
		Pain, fracture, eval hardware	NO	NO	CT Thoracic Spine without	72128
	LUMBAR SPINE	Immediate Post-op	NO	YES	CT Lumbar Spine with	72132
		Pain, fracture, eval hardware	NO	NO	CT Lumbar Spine without	72131



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Reducing the Risk of Contrast Induced Nephrotoxicity

Some patients receiving intravenous contrast require bloodwork prior to contrast injection

THE FOLLOWING PATIENTS SHOULD HAVE A RECENT EGFR (Estimated Glomular Filtration Rate):

- Age 70 or older
- History of renal disease (*note kidney stones/renal cysts do not require eGFR)
 - Dialysis Kidney surgery
 - Kidney transplant Kidney cancer
 - Single kidney
- History of hypertension requiring medical therapy (patients on high blood pressure medication)
- History of diabetes mellitus (including patients on metformin)

ACCEPTABLE BLOOD WORK GUIDELINES:

- eGFR should be within 90 days of imaging
- eGFR should be within 30 days if the patient had a recent hospitalization

DOSING GUIDELINES:

- eGFR > 45 Technologists can proceed with the contrast injection
- eGFR is between 30-44 Radiologist approval is needed prior to injection. Clinical judgement required and oral and/or IV hydration should be considered if patient can tolerate it.
- eGFR < 30 Radiologist should speak with the ordering clinician for clearance before proceeding with contrast injection or if alternative tests may be useful for diagnosis

DIALYSIS GUIDELINES:

Defer to Nephrologist for course of treatment