



SYSTEM BASED GUIDELINES FOR ORDERING CT's & MRI's/MRA's

- PLEASE NOTE:**
1. These are not the only clinical guidelines which indicate the need for these exams.
 2. Signs and/or symptoms must be noted in order for the exam to be warranted.
 ** R/O is not an acceptable diagnosis.
 3. These diagnoses and procedures are presented as "clinical" guidelines only, and are meant to aid in obtaining the imaging procedure(s) best suited for the diagnoses indicated. Individual patient insurance guidelines dictate payment policies, and patients may be asked to sign waivers for payment of services deemed not eligible for coverage by their carrier.

CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION(S)	CT CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION(S)	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
<u>Gastrointestinal</u>				
Abdominal mass	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Abdominal pain	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Abscess	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Appendicitis, RLQ pain	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Biliary ductal dilatation	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN WO/MRCP	74181
Cancer staging	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Cirrhosis	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn liver)	74183
Common bile duct stone	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN WO/MRCP	74181
Constipation	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Diarrhea	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Diverticulitis, LLQ pain	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Hemochromatosis			MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn liver)	74183
Hepatitis, chronic	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn liver)	74183
Jaundice	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn liver)	74183
Liver function test elevation	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn liver)	74183
Liver hemangioma, cyst	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn liver)	74183
Lymphoma	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Lymphadenopathy	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Pancreatic mass	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Pancreatitis	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Small bowel obstruction	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Weight loss	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		

Genitourinary				
Adrenal adenoma	CT Abdomen WO	74150	MRI ABDOMEN WO	74181
Bladder cancer, suspected	CT PELVIS W	72193		
Cancer staging	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO	74183
Flank pain, renal colic	CT Abdomen WO, CT Pelvis WO	74150 & 72192		
Hematuria (CT UROGRAM)	CT ABDOMEN W & WO, CT PELVIS W & WO	74170 & 72194		
Hematuria (suspect mass)	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn kidney)	74183
Hematuria (suspect stone)	CT Abdomen WO, CT Pelvis WO	74150 & 72192		
Hydronephrosis, work up (CT UROGRAM)	CT ABDOMEN W & WO, CT PELVIS W & WO	74170 & 72194		
Renal calculus	CT Abdomen WO, CT Pelvis WO	74150 & 72192		
Renal cyst	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn kidney)	74183
Renal mass or complex cyst	CT Abdomen W & WO	74170	MRI ABDOMEN W & WO (attn kidney)	74183
Neurologic				
Abscess			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
AVM, vascular malformation			MRI BRAIN W &WO and MRA HEAD WO	70553 & 70544
Breast discharge			MRI BRAIN W & WO (Attention to Pituitary)	70553
Cancer staging, brain			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Cancer staging, neck	CT SOFT TISSUE NECK W	70491	MRI ORBIT, FACE, & NECK W & WO	70543
Carotid stenosis/occlusion	CTA NECK W & WO	70492	MRA NECK W & WO	70549
Chronic sinusitis	CT MAXILLOFACIAL WO	70486		
Change in mental status	CT HEAD WO	70450	MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Cranial neuropathy			MRI BRAIN W &WO and MRI ORBIT , FACE, NECK WWO	70553 & 70543
Dementia			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Diplopia			MRI BRAIN W &WO and MRI ORBIT , FACE, NECK WWO	70553 & 70543
Dizziness, syncope			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Family history intracranial aneurysm	CTA HEAD W & WO	70470	MRA BRAIN	70544
Fracture-- facial, orbital or temporal bone	CT ORBIT SELLA /POST FOSSA/	70480		
Glioma			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Headache, acute onset	CT HEAD WO	70450		
Headaches, subacute or chronic			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Hearing loss, conductive	CT ORBIT SELLA /POST FOSSA/	70480		
Hearing loss, sensorineural			MRI BRAIN W & WO (Attn to Int Aud Canal)	70553
Hoarseness	CT SOFT TISSUE NECK W	70491		

Neurologic (Continued)				
Intracerebral artery stenosis/occlusion			MRA HEAD WO	70544
Intracranial hemorrhage, acute	CT HEAD WO	70450		
Lyme disease			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Mastoiditis	CT ORBIT SELLA /POST FOSSA/	70480		
Meningeal disease			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Meningioma			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Metastasis			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Migraines			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Multiinfarct state			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Multiple sclerosis, diagnosed			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Multiple sclerosis, suspected			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Neck lymphadenopathy	CT SOFT TISSUE NECK W	70491	MRI ORBIT, FACE, & NECK W & WO	70543
Neck mass or cyst	CT SOFT TISSUE NECK W	70491	MRI ORBIT, FACE, & NECK W & WO	70543
Optic neuritis			MRI BRAIN W &WO and MRI ORBIT , FACE, NECK WWO	70553 & 70543
Parkinson's disease			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Pituitary adenoma/microadenoma			MRI BRAIN W & WO (Attention to Pituitary)	70553
Prolactin, increased			MRI BRAIN W & WO (Attention to Pituitary)	70553
Salivary gland stone or mass	CT SOFT TISSUE NECK W&WO	70492		
Seizures			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Stroke, acute	CT HEAD WO	70450	MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Subarachnoid hemorrhage	CT HEAD WO	70450		
Subdural hematoma	CT HEAD WO	70450	MRI BRAIN WO	70551
TIA			MRI BRAIN W &WO	70553
Tinnitus (ringing in ears)			MRI BRAIN W & WO (Attention to Int Aud Canal)	70553
Trauma, acute	CT HEAD WO	70450		
Trauma, subacute or chronic			MRI BRAIN WO	70551
Vertigo			MRI BRAIN W & WO (Attention to Int Aud Canal)	70553
Visual disturbance			MRI BRAIN W &WO and MRI ORBIT , FACE, NECK WWO	70553 & 70543
Visual field defect			MRI BRAIN W &WO and MRI ORBIT , FACE, NECK WWO	70553 & 70543

Spine				
Cauda equina lesion			MRI LUMBAR SPINE W &WO	72158
Cervical rotation, decreased			MRI CERVICAL WO,	72141
Chiari malformation			MRI CERVICAL WO	72141
Disc vs scar (epidural fibrosis)			MRI LUMBAR SPINE W &WO	72158
Discitis, lumbar			MRI LUMBAR SPINE W &WO	72158
Epidural abscess			MRI LUMBAR SPINE W &WO	72158
Fracture	CT CERVICAL, THOR OR LUMBAR SPINE WO	72125,72128 or 72131	MRI CERVICAL WO, THOR WO or LUMBAR WO	72141, 72146 or 72148
Fracture, sacrum or coccyx	CT PELVIS WO	72192		
Herniated disc	CT LUMBAR SPINE WO	72131	MRI CERV WO, THOR WO or MRI LUMBAR WO	72141, 72146 or 72148
Intradural extramedullary lesion			MRI CERV W&WO or THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72156 or 72157
Leg weakness			MRI CERVICAL WO, THOR WO or LUMBAR WO	72141, 72146 or 72148
Low back pain	CT LUMBAR SPINE WO	72131	MRI LUMBAR SPINE WO	72148
Metastasis			MRI CERVICAL WO, THOR WO or LUMBAR WO	72141, 72146 or 72148
Mid back pain			MRI THORACIC WO	72146
Multiple sclerosis, diagnosed			MRI CERV W&WO or THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72156 or 72157
Multiple sclerosis, suspected			MRI CERVICAL WO or MRI THOR SPINE WO	72141 or 72146
Myelopathy			MRI CERVICAL WO or MRI THOR SPINE WO	72141 or 72146
Neck pain			MRI CERVICAL WO	72141
Numbness, leg	CT LUMBAR SPINE WO	72131	MRI LUMBAR SPINE WO	72148
Numbness, shoulder or arm			MRI CERVICAL WO	72141
Pain, leg	CT LUMBAR SPINE WO	72131	MRI LUMBAR SPINE WO	72148
Pain, shoulder or arm			MRI CERVICAL WO	72141
Prior surgery, lumbar			MRI LUMBAR SPINE W &WO	72158
Prior surgery, cerv or thoracic			MRI CERV W&WO or THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72156 or 72157
Radiculopathy			MRI CERV WO, THOR WO or LUMBAR WO	72141, 72146 or 72148
Spinal cord ischemia			MRI CERV W&WO or THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72156 or 72157
Spinal cord lesion			MRI CERV W&WO or THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72156 or 72157
Spinal stenosis			MRI CERV WO, THOR WO or LUMBAR WO	72141, 72146 or 72148
Syrinx			MRI CERV W&WO or THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72156 or 72157
Transverse myelitis			MRI THORACIC SPINE W&WO	72157

<u>Pulmonary</u>				
Asbestosis	CT CHEST WO	71250		
Bronchiectasis	CT CHEST WO	71250		
Cancer staging	CT Chest W	71260		
Chest wall mass	CT Chest W	71260	MRI CHEST W &WO	71552
Compex pleural effusion	CT Chest W	71260		
COPD	CT CHEST WO	71250		
Hilar fullness	CT Chest W	71260		
Interstitial lung disease	CT CHEST WO	71250		
Lung mass, suspected	CT Chest W	71260		
Lung nodules	CT CHEST WO	71250		
Mediastinal adenopathy	CT Chest W	71260		
Mediastinal mass	CT Chest W & WO	71270	MRI CHEST W &WO	71552
Sarcoidosis	CT Chest W	71260		
<u>Cardiac</u>				
Aortic dissection	CT Chest W & WO	71270	MRI CHEST W &WO	71552
Cardiac anomalies			MRI CHEST WO	71551
Coronary artery anomalies	CTA CORONARY W&WO INCL 3 D	0146T		
Coronary artery disease	CTA CORONARY W&WO INCL 3 D	0146T		
Coronary artery disease + LV/RV cardiac function	CTA CORONARY W&WO INCL 3 D	0146T and 0151T		
Pericardial disease	CT Chest W	71260	MRI CHEST W &WO	71552
Pulmonary vein mapping, pre ablation	CTA HEART MORPHOLOGY	0145T		
Pulmonary embolism	CTA CHEST W	71275		

Musculoskeletal				
Bone contusion			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Bursitis			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
DJD			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Fracture	CT LOWER or UPPER EXTREMITY WO	(L)73700 (U)73200	MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Joint clicking, locking (hip)			MRI HIP ARTHRO CODES (3)*	73722, 73525, 27095
Joint clicking, locking (knee): initial study			MRI LWR EXT JT WO	73721
Joint clicking, locking (knee)			MRI KNEE ARTHRO CODES (3)*	72722, 73580, 27370
Joint effusion			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Labral tear			MR SHOULDER ARTHRO CODES(3)*	73222, 73040, 23350
Ligamentous tear, wrist			MR WRIST ARTHRO CODES (3)*	73222, 73115, 25246
Meniscal, ligamentous tear knee			MRI LWR EXT JT WO	73721
Muscle injury			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Osteochondral defect			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Osteomyelitis			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Osteomyelitis in diabetic			MRI LWR EXT JT W &WO	73723
Prior surgery, knee			MRI KNEE ARTHRO CODES (3)*	72722, 73580, 27370
Prior surgery, shoulder			MR SHOULDER ARTHRO CODES(3)*	73222, 73040, 23350
Rotator cuff tear			MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73221
Soft tissue mass, non joint			MRI LWR OR UPPER EXT OTHER THAN JT W&WO	(L)73720 or (U)73220
Soft tissue mass, joint			MRI LWR or UPPER EXT JT W &WO	(L)73723 or (U)73223
Stress fracture			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Tendon tear or injury			MRI LWR EXT JT WO or MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73721 or 73221
Triangular fibrocartilage tear (wrist): initial study			MRI UPPER EXT JT WO	73221
Triangular fibrocartilage tear (wrist):			MR WRIST ARTHRO CODES (3)*	73222, 73115, 25246

Vascular				
Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), suspected	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), known	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193	MRA ABD W &WO	74185
Aortic dissection, thoracic	CT Chest W & WO	71270	MRI CHEST W &WO	71552
Carotid bruit	CTA NECK W & WO	70498	MRA NECK W & WO	70549*
Carotid stenosis/occlusion	CTA NECK W & WO	70498	MRA NECK W & WO	70549*
Claudication	CTA'S Abd & BLE Runoff W &WO	75635	MRA ABD W&WO and MRA LWR EXT W&WO	74185 & 73725 *
Cold feet	CTA'S Abd & BLE Runoff W &WO	75635	MRA ABD W&WO and MRA LWR EXT W&WO	74185 & 73725 *
Foot ulcer	CTA'S Abd & BLE Runoff W &WO	75635	MRA ABD W&WO and MRA LWR EXT W&WO	74185 & 73725 *
Hypertension, malignant			MRA ABD W &WO	74185
Leg edema	CT Abdomen W , CT Pelvis W	74160 & 72193		
Peripheral vascular disease legs	CTA'S Abd & BLE Runoff W &WO	75635	MRA ABD W&WO and MRA LWR EXT W&WO	74185 & 73725 *
Post-op AAA repair	CTA ABD/PELVIS W/WO ENDOGRAFT	74170 & 72194		
Pre-op or post-op stent graft	CTA ABD/PELVIS W/WO ENDOGRAFT	74170 & 72194		
Renal artery stenosis			MRA ABD W &WO	74185
Thoracic aortic aneurysm	CTA CHEST W&WO	71275	MRI CHEST W &WO	71552

For those studies marked with an asterisk (*), MRI is the study of preference

Gynecologic				
Adenomyosis			MRI PELVIS WO	72195
Cancer staging	CT PELVIS W	72193	MRI PELVIS W & WO	72197
Complex adnexal cysts			MRI PELVIS W & WO	72197
Cysts			MRI PELVIS WO	72195
Dermoid			MRI PELVIS WO	72195
Endometriosis			MRI PELVIS WO	72195
Pelvic mass, origin uncertain			MRI PELVIS W & WO	72197
Uterine fibroid			MRI PELVIS WO	72195
Uterine fibroid (pre uterine a embolization)			MRI PELVIS W & WO	72197