

CT/MRI Ordering Guide

This is for reference only. This does not imply protocol standards for all the radiology facilities. Information subject to change.

BODY PART	SIGNS/SYMPTOMS	EXAM TO ORDER
BRAIN	Trauma, CVA, Bleeding, Headache, Shunt Check, Alzheimer's, Memory Loss, TIA, Mental Status Change, Confusion	CT Head Without Contrast or MRI Brain Without Contrast <i>(MRI for more severe symptoms or persistent symptoms after a CT Head without contrast was performed)</i>
	Hearing Loss, Tumor, Elevated Prolactin Levels, Cranial Nerve Lesions, Dizziness, Vertigo, Multiple Sclerosis, AVM, Pituitary Lesions, Seizures, Infection	MRI Brain Without & With Contrast
	Stroke, CVA, TIA, Aneurysm	MRI Brain Without Contrast
SINUSES	Pain, Congestion, Sinusitis	CT Sinus Without Contrast
ORBITS	Trauma, Fracture, Foreign Body	CT Orbits Without Contrast
	Infection, Mass	CT Orbits With IV Contrast
	Grave's Disease, Exophthalmus, Proptosis, Pseudotumor, Vascular Lesions	MRI Orbits Without and With Contrast
FACIAL BONES	Trauma, Pain	CT Facial Bones Without Contrast
TEMPORAL BONES	Tinnitus, Cholesteatoma, Pain, Trauma	CT Temporal Bones Without Contrast
NECK	Mass, Adenopathy	CT Neck With IV Contrast
	Infection, Pain, Vocal Cord Paralysis	MRI Neck Without & With Contrast
CHEST	Hilar or Mediastinal Mass, Lung Cancer Lymphoma, Sarcoid, Staging, Mesothelioma Metastatic Work-Up	CT Chest With Contrast
	Nodule, Cough, Pain	CT Chest Without Contrast
	Interstitial Lung Disease, IPF, UIP, Sarcoid	CT Chest, High Resolution No Contrast
	Neural Tumor Brachial Plexus Pathology	MRI Chest Without Contrast
ABDOMEN & PELVIS	Pain, Colitis, IBD, Crohns, Appendicitis, Abscess, Tumor, Cancer	CT ABD & Pelvis With Oral & IV Contrast
	Hematuria With Pain, Stone Survey	CT ABD & Pelvis Without Oral and IV Contrast
	Post Liver Embolization, Hemangioma, Hepatoma, Hepatitis, Cirrhosis, Pancreatitis, Pseudocyst	MRI Abdomen Without & With Contrast
	Biliary Obstruction, GB Stones, Jaundice, Abnormal Enzymes, Adrenal Mass	MRI Abdomen Without Contrast (MRCP)
	IBD, Occult GI Bleeding, Diffuse SBD (Gluten enteropathy)	CT Enterography
	Fibroid, Pre-Post Fibroid Embolization, Ovarian Mass, Endometrioma	MRI Pelvis Without & With Contrast
	Incomplete Colonoscopy or Screening	CT Colonography <i>(Not covered by insurance. Must have physician's referral. Performed at the Weems Creek A.A.D. location.)</i>

BODY PART	SIGNS/SYMPTOMS	EXAM TO ORDER
CERVICAL, THORACIC & LUMBAR SPINE	Pain, Trauma, Fracture, Fusion	CT Without Contrast of Specific Area
	Radiculopathy, Disc Herniation, Degenerative Disease	MRI Without Contrast of Specific Area
	Syrinx, Post-op Fusion, MS, Tumor, Cancer, Mets, Osteomyelitis, Myelopathy, Discitis, Compression Fracture w/hx of Malignancy, Epidural Abscess	MRI Without Contrast of Specific Area
UPPER & LOWER EXTREMITIES – NON JOINTS	Fracture, Fusion, Malunion	CT Without Contrast of Body Part
	Pain, Muscle/Tendon Tear	MRI Without Contrast of Body Part
	Abscess, Cellulitis, Fascitis, Osteomyelitis, Morton's Neuroma, Soft Tissue Tumor	MRI Without & With Contrast of Body Part
Upper & Lower Extremities – Joints	AVN, Internal Derangement, Labral, Meniscal, Ligament & Cartilage Tears, OCD	MRI Without Contrast of Body Part
	Abscess, Cellulitis, Fascitis, Osteomyelitis, Myositis, Tumor, Mass	MRI Without & With of Body Part
Pelvis (Bony)	Pain, Fracture	CT Pelvis Without
	Muscle/Tendon Tear, AVN	MRI Pelvis Without Contrast
	Tumor, Mass, Osteomyelitis, Septic Arthritis	MRI Pelvis Without & With Contrast
CT/MR ANGIO		
ABDOMINAL AORTA	Aneurysm, Dissection, Post Stent Grafting, Renal Artery Stenosis, Mesenteric Stenosis	CTA Abdomen with IV Contrast
PULMONARY ARTERIES	Aneurysm, Dissection, Chest Pain, Dyspnea	CTA Chest With IV Contrast
THORACIC AORTA	Tachypnea, Hemoptysis, SOB, Pulmonary Hypertension, Pulmonary Venous Mapping	CTA Chest With IV Contrast
	DVT	CTA Chest, CTA Abdomen and Runoff With Contrast
	Screening Cardiac Calcium Scoring	CT Screening Cardiac Calcium Scoring
LOWER EXTREMITIES	Peripheral Artery Disease	CTA Abdomen and Runoff With Contrast
CAROTID	Stenosis, Bruit, TIA, CVA, Vascular Tumor	CTA Neck With Contrast
BRAIN	Aneurysm, TIA, CVA, Intracranial Hemorrhage	CTA Head With Contrast
	Aneurysm, Intracranial Hemorrhage	MRI Head Without Contrast

Additional Ordering Notes

CT Abdomen will only include from the top of the diaphragm to the top of the iliac crest. If the patient is experiencing any lower quadrant pain, if appendicitis is suspected or if you have concerns about the colon, small bowel or any pelvic organs then you must order a CT Pelvis as well.

Premedication is required for some patients receiving intravenous contrast, including patients with a known contrast allergy, patients with a history of severe allergic reaction and patients with asthma who use inhalers daily

Patients over 59 years of age, patients with renal disease and diabetics need to have a **DOCUMENTED** normal BUN and creatinine within the last 3 months.

Pacemakers, ocular metallic foreign bodies, mechanical ear implants, non-removable TENS units, any wire loop devices are all examples of devices that are incompatible with MRI.