

Baystate Health

Department of Radiology

CT Ordering Guidelines		
Check: labs, allergies, is patient consentable?, Light meal prior to exam OK. Fluids encouraged.		
Exam	Reason for Exam	Contrast?
Head	Headache, syncope, trauma, fracture, mental status change, seizures, stroke, hematoma, shunt, hydrocephalus	No IV
	Metastatic disease, abscess, mass, tumor	IV
	HIV, metastatic melanoma	IV (W & WO)
Maxillofacial/Orbits	Trauma, fracture, Grave's disease	No IV
	Cellulitis, abscess, mass	IV
Soft Tissue Neck	Cellulitis, abscess, mass, swelling	IV
	Goiter	No IV
	Sialolithiasis (may need non-enhanced for stone visualization)	IV (W & WO)
Temporal Bones	Congenital hearing loss, trauma, cholesteatoma	No IV
	Mastoiditis	IV
Spine: Cervical, Thoracic, or Lumbar	Trauma, fracture	No IV
	Cord/cauda equina compression or infection & contraindication to MRI	IV
Extremity: Upper or Lower	Fracture, dislocation, foreign body	No IV
	Cellulitis, abscess, mass	IV
Chest	Simple pneumonia, pleural effusion, pulmonary nodule, interstitial/alveolar infiltration, ? aortic aneurysm size, emphysema,	No IV
	Interstitial lung disease, bronchiectasis (indicate hi-res in comments)	No IV
	Infection, abscess, ? mets, tumor, hilar mass, ?post obstructive pneumonia, hemoptysis	IV
Abdomen Only	Pancreatitis, biliary obstruction, pain, mass	IV and Oral
Abdomen Only (Liver Mass Protocol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known or suspected hepatic mass • Indicate "Liver Mass Protocol" on order 	IV (W & WO)
Abdomen Only (Pancreatic Protocol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess for presence of or characterize a suspected pancreatic mass • Indicate "Pancreatic Mass Protocol" on order 	IV only
Abdomen Only (Renal Mass Protocol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of or suspected renal mass • Indicate "Renal Mass Protocol" on order 	IV (W & WO)
Abdomen & Pelvis	Renal stone, hematoma, hemorrhage, ruptured or leaking aneurysm, AAA	No IV & No Oral
	Diverticulitis, appendicitis, bowel perforation, ? mets, abscess, Crohns, colitis, IBS, generalized pain, RLQ pain, LLQ pain, small bowel obstruction	IV and Oral
Urogram (Abdomen/ Pelvis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of hematuria or suspicion of urothelial malignancy • Indicate "Urogram" on order 	IV (W & WO)
Colonography (Abdomen/Pelvis)	Bowel cleansing prep to be prescribed by ordering physician ** patient required to pick up a special barium prep called Tagitol from the CT Scan department prior 2 days prior to date of exam	Special Oral Prep Required
Enterography (Abdomen/Pelvis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small bowel study • Assess for bowel wall inflammation, stricture, and fistula ** this is a timed study with a special oral prep called volumen. The patient will be given this oral prep at timed intervals within the department prior to scanning.	IV and Special Oral Prep Required
Pelvis	Fracture, dislocation	No IV
	Mass	IV and Oral

Angio Chest	All indications	IV
Angio Abdomen/Pelvis	All indications	IV
Angio Head	All indications	IV
Angio Neck	All indications	IV

Outpatients requiring oral contrast for a CT scan require a prescription for Read-Cat 2, 2 bottles of 450ml, take as directed. This can be filled at Baystate Pharmacies at 759 Chestnut Street and 3300 Main Street as well as at many local pharmacies.