TRA MEDICAL IMAGING

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CT Abdomen Pelvis wo Colonography

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Last Reviewed: December 2022

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In accordance with the ALARA principle, TRA policies and protocols promote the utilization of radiation dose reduction techniques for all CT examinations. For scanner/protocol combinations that allow for the use of automated exposure control and/or iterative reconstruction algorithms while maintaining diagnostic image quality, those techniques can be employed when appropriate. For examinations that require manual or fixed mA/kV settings as a result of individual patient or scanner/protocol specific factors, technologists are empowered and encouraged to adjust mA, kV or other scan parameters based on patient size (including such variables as height, weight, body mass index and/or lateral width) with the goals of reducing radiation dose and maintaining diagnostic image quality.

If any patient at a TRA-MINW outpatient facility requires CT re-imaging, obtain radiologist advice prior to proceeding with the exam.

The following document is an updated CT protocol for all of the sites at which TRA-MINW is responsible for the administration, quality, and interpretation of CT examinations.

Include for ALL exams

- **Scout**: Send all scouts for all cases
- **Reformats**: Made from *thinnest* **source** acquisition
  - Scroll Display
    - Axial recons - Cranial to caudal
    - Coronal recons - Anterior to posterior
    - Sagittal recons - Right to left
  - Chest reformats should be in separate series from Abdomen/Pelvis reformats, where applicable
- **kVp**
  - 100 @ <=140lbs
  - 120 @ >140lbs
- **mAs**
  - Prefer: Quality reference mAs for specific exam, scanner and patient size
  - Auto mAs, as necessary

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Indication: To look for polyps and to check for colon or rectal (colorectal) cancer.

Patient Position:
- Supine, feet down with arms above head – first scan
- Prone, feet down with arms above head – second scan

Scan Range (CC z-axis): 1 cm above diaphragm through lesser trochanter (to include all air in colon)

Prep: See prep document

Oral Contrast: None

Note: Optimal insufflation is critical!!

IV Contrast and Delay: N/A

Scouts
- Scout radiograph
- 5 axial slices (5 mm thickness, ST kernel) at the following levels:
  - T11-T12, L1-L2, L3-L4, L5-S1, below SI joints
- Rad check prior to proceeding to ensure adequate prep

***Acquisitions*: 2 non-contrast scans**
- Non-contrast supine
- Non-contrast prone
- *Then check images with rad*
  - *May need to scan non-contrast decubitus (right side down) if poor distention of sigmoid colon*

Series + Reformats:

1. **Non-contrast supine**
   a. Axial 2-2.5 mm ST kernel
   b. Axial thins (0.5-1.5 mm thinnest possible) ST kernel sent to pacs and TeraRecon
   c. Coronal 2 mm ST kernel
   d. Sagittal 2 mm ST kernel
2. **Non-contrast prone**
   a. Axial 2-2.5 mm ST kernel
   b. Axial thins (0.5-1.5 mm thinnest possible) ST kernel sent to pacs and TeraRecon
   c. Coronal 2 mm ST kernel
   d. Sagittal 2 mm ST kernel
3. ***Non-contrast decubitus (if needed)***
   a. Axial 2-2.5 mm ST kernel
   b. Axial thins (0.5-1.5 mm thinnest possible) ST kernel sent to pacs and TeraRecon
   c. Coronal 2 mm ST kernel
   d. Sagittal 2 mm ST kernel

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CT Colonography patients are scanned supine first and then prone. The colon will be scanned after inflation with an automated CO_2 insufflator per the procedure document.

*****Machine specific protocols are included below for reference**

Machine specific recons (axial ranges given above for machine variability):

***Soft tissue (ST) Kernel, machine-specific thickness (axial):**

- GE = 2.5 mm
- Siemens = 2 mm
- Toshiba = 2 mm

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General Comments

NOTE:
Use of IV contrast is preferred for most indications *aside from*: pulmonary nodule follow-up, HRCT, lung cancer screening, and in patients with a contraindication to iodinated contrast (see below).

Contrast *Relative* Contraindications

- **Severe contrast allergy**: anaphylaxis, laryngospasm, severe bronchospasm
  - If there is history of severe contrast allergy to IV contrast, avoid administration of oral contrast
- **Acute kidney injury (AKI)**: Creatinine increase of greater than 30% over baseline
  - Reference hospital protocol (creatinine cut-off may vary)
- **Chronic kidney disease (CKD) *stage 4 or 5*** (eGFR < 30 mL/min per 1.73 m^2) **NOT** on dialysis
  - Reference hospital protocol

Contrast Allergy Protocol

- Per hospital protocol
- Discuss with radiologist as necessary

Hydration Protocol

- For eGFR **30-45 mL/min** per 1.73 m^2: Follow approved hydration protocol

IV Contrast (where indicated)

- Isovue 370 is the default intravenous contrast agent
  - See specific protocols for contrast volume and injection rate
- If Isovue 370 is unavailable:
  - Osmolality 350-370 (i.e., Omnipaque 250): Use same volume as Isovue 370
  - Osmolality 380-320 (i.e., Isovue 300, Visipaque): Use indicated volume **+ 25 mL** (*not to exceed 125 mL total contrast*)

Oral Contrast

- Dilutions to be performed per site/hospital policy (unless otherwise listed)
- Volumes to be given per site/hospital policy (unless otherwise listed)
- TRA-MINW document is available for reference if necessary (see website)

Brief Summary

- Chest only
  - ✓ Chest W, Chest WO
  - ✓ CTPE
  - ✓ HRCT

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- ✓ Low Dose Screening/Nodule
  - None

- Pelvis only
  - ✓ Pelvis W, Pelvis WO
    - Water, full instructions as indicated

- Routine, excluding chest only and pelvis only
  - ✓ Abd W, Abd WO
  - ✓ Abd/Pel W, Abd/Pel WO
  - ✓ Chest/Abd W, Chest/Abd WO
  - ✓ Chest/Abd/Pel W, Chest/Abd/Pel WO
  - ✓ Neck/Chest/Abd/Pel W, Neck/Chest Abd Pel WO
  - ✓ CTPE + Abd/Pel W
    - TRA-MINW offices: Dilute Isovue-370
    - Hospital sites:
      - ED: Water, if possible
      - Inpatient: prefer Dilute Isovue 370
        - Gastrografin OK if Isovue unavailable
        - Avoid Barium (Readi-Cat)
      - FHS/MHS Outpatient: Gastrografin and/or Barium (Readi-Cat)

- Multiphase abdomen/pelvis
  - ✓ Liver, pancreas
    - Water, full instructions as indicated
  - ✓ Renal, adrenal
    - None

- CTA abdomen/pelvis
  - ✓ Mesenteric ischemia, acute GI bleed, endograft
    - Water, full instructions as indicated

- Enterography
  - Breeza, full instructions as indicated

- Esophogram

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- Dilute Isovue 370, full instructions as indicated

- Cystogram, Urogram
  - None

- Venogram
  - Water, full instructions as indicated