

## RADIOLOGY 101

We share the mutual goal of providing the best care possible for our patients and to do so in a timely manner.  
Anything that we can do to assist one another ultimately benefits our patients.

### Tips to save time and expedite your patient's D.I. exam

#### Requesting an examination

Did you know that each requisition (with the exception of plain radiographs) is prescribed an imaging protocol in order to target the area and pathology of interest? For example, there are more than 10 variations of a chest CT, so knowing the pertinent history and presumptive diagnosis really helps. Therefore:

- Provide relevant but concise information that would allow appropriate protocol of the exam and would direct the Radiologist's attention to the region of interest in order to form insightful differential diagnosis.
  - Example: "Pleuritic chest pain in the left posterior chest with fever and cough" rather than just "chest pain".
- If the request is directly the result of Radiologist recommendation, please attach a copy of the report which recommended it.
  - Reason: By knowing the findings that prompted the recommendation, the most appropriate exam can be prescribed. Literally hundreds of requisitions are received daily and it is not possible to search for all the previous reports in a timely fashion by the two booking clerks that we have.
- If you are not sure what test to order, please consult the Canadian Association of Radiology imaging guidelines <http://www.car.ca/en/standards-guidelines/guidelines.aspx>
  - If the guidelines do not apply well to your patient, fell free to call a Radiologist.

### In need of Emergency Imaging?

#### Call Emergency or a Clinical Specialist who can act as the MRP and direct investigations and management (MRP Policy)

- Otherwise if you would like to speak to a radiologist, feel free to call the dedicated Doctor's priority line: **250 420-4186** (or 4186 if internal). The receptionist will direct you to the most appropriate Radiologist, or address your inquiries through the most appropriate channel.
  - This number can be used for all matters related to Diagnostic Imaging (e.g. urgent appointment request, requisition/report status...), but please remember that this line is to be used **only by physicians** for inquiries that are necessitated by timely patient care.

#### Did You Know....

- A **requisition does not have to be signed**, as long as your MSP number is present. This allows the acceptance of e-reqs from EMRs that have this capability.
- For **exams needed on regular intervals** (e.g. liver U/S for Hep C every 6month), this can be stated clearly on the initial requisition, and we will keep that requisition on file to automatically schedule the patient for the stated interval, indefinitely.
- For **Obstetrical U/S requests, the same can be done** ("routine dating and anatomical survey, currently approx. \_\_ wks."). Don't forget to check provincial guidelines regarding the need for NT.
- **Fetal gender is not revealed** to the patient at the time of examination and sometimes cannot be adequately assessed.