

#18 -Tips and Tricks from the ER: Access to Medical Imaging

Truth, or myth? "ER Physicians can get any imaging studies done sooner than physicians outside the ER."

Myth!

The TRUTH is that aside from truly life-threatening situations (ask yourself: Is my patient going to DIE TODAY if I don't get this imaging done?), ER physicians have the same access to X-rays, ultrasounds, CTs and MRIs that community physicians have.

TIP: DON'T send patients to the ER to "get your imaging test done more quickly," because all it will give your patient is a very long wait ending in frustration and distrust.

TRICK: SAME-DAY CT is available for life-threatening conditions without sending your patient to the ER. Fill out a regular CT requisition, give it to your patient, and make sure they arrive at either hospital before 3pm - they will be slotted in when a spot is available.