



To: Interior Health Physicians and Nurse Practitioners
From: Tim Rode, Program Director Medical Imaging
Dr Kevin Beckner, Medical Director, Medical Imaging
Date: 2 July 2019

RE: Appropriateness – Medical Imaging Exams

The Ministry of Health has requested that all Health Authorities work with their medical and clinical partners to ensure the appropriateness of requested medical imaging exams remain top of mind for all requesting care providers.

The identified five provincially agreed decision rules on appropriateness include:

1. Don't do imaging for lower-back pain unless red flags are present
2. Don't order CT or MRI head scans in adults and children who have suffered minor head injuries (unless positive for a head injury clinical decision rule)
3. Don't do imaging for uncomplicated headache unless red flags are present
4. Don't do MRIs of major joints in patients with co-existent osteoarthritis
5. Don't do Chest CT for pulmonary embolism in low risk patients.

https://www.bcemergencynetwork.ca/clinical_resource/pulmonary-embolism-diagnosis/

Detailed clinical guidelines are available on the following website found under 'Diagnostic Imaging Referral' and 'Choosing Wisely'. (see attached flow sheets for accessing)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/bc-guidelines>

Referring practitioners can contact Interior Health radiologists through the local Medical Imaging Department to discuss appropriateness of exams related to the guidelines.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Ministry of Health Directives or the clinical guidelines for appropriateness of medical imaging exams please do not hesitate to contact:

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