

Contrast Guidelines for Common CT/CTA & MRI/MRA

Body Imaging				
Gastrointestinal				
	CT		MRI	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Abdominal mass	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Abdominal pain	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Abscess	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Appendicitis	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Abdomen and Pelvis w & wo	74183 & 72197
Biliary ductal dilatation	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Abdomen w & wo MRCP	74183 & 76376
Cancer staging	CT Abdomen w	74160	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Cirrhosis	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn liver)	74183
Common bile duct stone	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo MRCP	74183 & 76376
Constipation	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease	CT Enterography/Small Bowel	74177 & 76376		
Diarrhea	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Diverticulitis, LLQ pain	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Hemochromatosis			MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn liver)	74183
Hepatitis	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn liver)	74183
Liver function test elevation	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn liver)	74183
Liver hemangioma, cyst	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn liver)	74183
Lymphoma	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Lymphadenopathy	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Pancreatic mass	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Pancreatitis	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Small bowel obstruction	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Weight loss	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Genitourinary				
	CT		MRI	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Adrenal adenoma /mass/cyst	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Bladder cancer, suspected	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177		
Cancer staging	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Abdomen w & wo	74183
Flank pain, renal colic	CT Abdomen & Pelvis wo	74176		
Hematuria (CT Urogram, CT IVP)	CT Hematuria Protocol - CT/IVP w & wo	74178	MRI Abdomen and Pelvis w & wo	74183 & 72197
Hematuria (suspect mass)	CT Hematuria Protocol - CT/IVP w & wo	74178	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn kidney)	74183
Hematuria (suspect stone)	CT Hematuria Protocol - CT/IVP w & wo	74178		
Hydronephrosis, work up	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w and/or wo	74178		
Renal calculus	CT Abdomen & Pelvis wo	74176		
Renal cyst	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn kidney)	74183
Renal mass or complex cyst	CT Abdomen w & wo	74170	MRI Abdomen w & wo (attn kidney)	74183

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Pelvis				
	CT		MRI	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Adenomyosis			MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Cancer staging	CT Abdomen & Pelvis w	74177	MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Complex adnexal cysts			MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Cysts			MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Dermoid	CT Pelvis w	72193	MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Endometriosis			MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Pelvic mass, origin uncertain			MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Uterine fibroid			MRI Pelvis w & wo	72197
Pulmonary				
	CT		MRI	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Asbestosis	CT Chest wo	71250		
Bronchiectasis				
	Chest for Interstitial Lung Disease, High resolution (CT Chest wo)	71250		
Cancer staging	CT Chest w	71260		
Chest wall mass	CT Chest w	71260	MRI Chest w & wo	71552
Complex pleural effusion	CT Chest w	71260		
COPD				
	Chest for Interstitial Lung Disease, High resolution (CT Chest wo)	71250		
Hilar fullness	CT Chest w	71260		
Interstitial lung disease				
	Chest for Interstitial Lung Disease, High resolution (CT Chest wo)	71250		
Lung mass, suspected	CT Chest w	71260		
Lung nodules	CT Chest wo	71250		
Mediastinal adenopathy	CT Chest w	71260		
Mediastinal mass	CT Chest w & wo	71270	MRI Chest w & wo	71552
Sarcoidosis	Chest for Interstitial Lung Disease with contrast, High resolution (CT Chest w)	71260		
Cardiac				
	CT		MRI	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Aortic dissection	CT Chest w & wo	71270	MRI Chest w & wo	71552
Cardiac anomalies			MRI Chest wo	71551
Coronary artery anomalies	CTA Coronary w & wo Include 3 D	75574		
Coronary artery disease	CTA Coronary w & wo Include 3 D	75574		
Coronary artery disease + LV/RV cardiac function	CTA Coronary w & wo Include 3 D	75574		
Pericardial disease	CT Chest w	71260	MRI Chest w & wo	71552
Pulmonary vein mapping, pre ablation	CTA Heart Morphology	75572		

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Vascular				
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	CT		MRI	
	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), suspected	CT Angiography Abdomen & Pelvis	74174	MRA Abdomen w or wo	74185
Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), known	CT Angiography Abdomen & Pelvis	74174	MRA Abdomen w or wo	74185
Aortic dissection, Thoracic	CT Angiography Chest	71275	MRA Chest w or wo	71555
Carotid bruit	CT Angiography Carotid/Neck	70498	MRA Neck w & wo	70549*
Carotid stenosis/occlusion	CT Angiography Carotid/Neck	70498	MRA Neck w & wo	70549*
Claudication	CT Angiography Abdomen, Pelvis, Lower Ext w runoff	75635	MRA Abdomen w & wo and MRA Lower Ext w & wo	74185 & 73725 *
Cold feet	CT Angiography Abdomen, Pelvis, Lower Ext w runoff	75635	MRA Abdomen w & wo and MRA Lower Ext w & wo	74185 & 73725 *
Foot ulcer	CT Angiography Abdomen, Pelvis, Lower Ext w runoff	75635	MRA Abdomen w & wo and MRA Lower Ext w & wo	74185 & 73725 *
Hypertension, malignant	CT Angiography Renal (Abdomen) w & wo Contrast	74175	MRA Abdomen w or wo	74185
Leg edema	CT Angiography Abdomen & Pelvis	74174		
Peripheral vascular disease legs	CT Angiography Abdomen, Pelvis, Lower Ext w runoff	75635	MRA Abdomen w & wo and MRA Lower Ext w & wo	74185 & 73725 *
Pre-op or post-op stent graft	AAA/Endograft	74174		
Renal artery stenosis	CT Angiography Renal (Abdomen) w & wo Contrast	74175	MRA Abdomen w or wo	74185
Coronary Artery Disease	CT Angiography Coronary	75574		
Thoracic aortic aneurysm	CT Angiography Chest	71275	MRA Chest w or wo	71555

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Neurological Imaging				
Head and Neck				
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	CT		MRI	
	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Abscess			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
AVM, vascular malformation			MRI Brain w & wo and MRA Head w	70553 & 70545
Breast discharge			MRI Brain w & wo (Attention to Pituitary)	70553
Cancer staging, Brain			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Cancer staging, Neck	CT Soft tissue neck w	70491	MRI Orbit, Face, & Neck w & wo	70543
Carotid stenosis/occlusion	CT Angiography Carotid/Neck	70498	MRA Neck w & wo	70549
Sinus congestion/drainage	CT Limited sinus wo	70486-52		
Chronic sinusitis	CT Complete sinus wo	70486		
Change in mental status	CT Brain wo	70450	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Cranial neuropathy			MRI Brain w & wo and MRI Orbit , Face, Neck w & wo	70553 & 70543
Dementia			MRI Brain wo	70551
Dizziness, syncope			MRI Brain wo	70551
Dizziness, syncope with cancer history			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Headache, acute onset	CT Brain wo	70450	MRI Brain wo	70551
Headache, acute onset with cancer history	CT Brain w & wo	70470	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Migraines			MRI Brain wo	70551
Migraines with cancer history			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Headaches, subacute or chronic			MRI Brain wo	70551
Diplopia			MRI Brain w & wo and MRI Orbit , Face, Neck w & wo	70553 & 70543
Family history intracranial aneurysm	CT Angiography Brain/Head	70496	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Fracture - facial, orbital	CT Maxillofacial Bones wo	70486		
Glioma			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Hearing loss, conductive	CT Temporal Bones wo	70480		
Hearing loss, sensorineural			MRI Brain w & wo (Attn to Internal Auditory Canal)	70553
Hoarseness	CT Soft tissue neck w	70491		
Intracerebral artery stenosis/occlusion	CT Angiography Brain/Head	70496	MRA Brain w	70545
Intracranial hemorrhage, acute	CT Brain wo	70450		
Lyme disease			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Mastoiditis	CT Temporal Bones w	70481		
Meningeal disease			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Meningioma			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Metastasis			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Multiinfarct state			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Multiple sclerosis, diagnosed			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Multiple sclerosis, suspected			MRI Brain w & wo	70553

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Head and Neck				
	CT		MRI	
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Neck lymphadenopathy	CT Soft tissue neck w	70491	MRI Orbit, Face, & Neck w & wo	70543
Neck mass or cyst	CT Soft tissue neck w	70491	MRI Orbit, Face, & Neck w & wo	70543
Optic neuritis			MRI Brain w & wo and MRI Orbit , Face, Neck w & wo	70553 & 70543
Parkinson's disease			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Pituitary adenoma/microadenoma			MRI Pituitary (Brain w & wo)	70553
Prolactin, increased			MRI Pituitary (Brain w & wo)	70553
Salivary gland stone or mass	CT Soft tissue neck w & wo	70492		
Seizures			MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Stroke, acute	CT Brain wo	70450	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Subarachnoid hemorrhage	CT Brain wo	70450		
Subdural hematoma	CT Brain wo	70450	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
TIA	CT Brain wo	70450	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Tinnitus (ringing in ears)	CT Temporal bones wo	70480	MRI IACs (Brain w & wo)	70553
Trauma, acute	CT Brain wo	70450		
Trauma, subacute or chronic	CT Brain wo	70450	MRI Brain w & wo	70553
Vertigo			MRI IACs (Brain w & wo)	70553
Visual disturbance			MRI Brain w & wo and MRI Orbit , Face, Neck w & wo	70553 & 70543
Visual field defect			MRI Brain w & wo and MRI Orbit , Face, Neck w & wo	70553 & 70543

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Spine				
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	CT		MRI	
	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Cauda equina lesion			MRI Lumbar spine w & wo	72158
Cervical rotation, decreased	CT Cervical spine wo	72125	MRI Cervical wo	72141
Chiari malformation			MRI Cervical wo	72141
Disc vs scar (epidural fibrosis)			MRI Lumbar spine w & wo	72158
Discitis, lumbar			MRI Lumbar spine w & wo	72158
Epidural abscess			MRI Lumbar spine w & wo	72158
Fracture	CT Cervical, Thoracic or Lumbar spine wo	72125,72128 or 72131	MRI Cervical wo, Thoracic wo or Lumbar wo	72141, 72146 or 72148
Fracture, sacrum or coccyx	CT Pelvis wo	72192		
Herniated disc	CT Lumbar spine wo	72131	MRI Cervical wo, Thoracic wo or MRI Lumbar wo	72141, 72146 or 72148
Intradural extramedullary lesion			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158
Leg weakness			MRI Cervical wo, Thoracic wo or Lumbar wo	72141, 72146 or 72148
Low back pain	CT Lumbar spine wo	72131	MRI Lumbar spine wo	72148
Metastasis			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158
Mid back pain	*If MRI contraindicated; CT Thoracic spine and Bone Scan		MRI Thoracic spine wo	72146
Multiple sclerosis, diagnosed			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158
Multiple sclerosis, suspected			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158
Myelopathy			MRI Cervical wo, Thoracic wo or Lumbar wo	72141, 72146 or 72148
Neck pain	CT Cervical spine wo	72125	MRI Cervical spine wo	72141
Numbness, leg	CT Lumbar spine wo	72131	MRI Lumbar spine wo	72148
Numbness, shoulder or arm			MRI Cervical spine wo	72141
Pain, leg	CT Lumbar spine wo	72131	MRI Lumbar spine wo	72148
Pain, shoulder or arm			MRI Cervical spine wo	72141
Prior surgery, cervical			MRI Cervical spine wo	72141
Prior surgery, lumbar (less than 10 years)			MRI Lumbar spine w & wo	72158
Prior surgery, lumbar (greater than 10 years)			MRI Lumbar spine wo	72148
Prior surgery, thoracic (less than 10 years)			MRI Thoracic spine w & wo	72157
Prior surgery, thoracic (greater than 10 years)			MRI Thoracic spine wo	72146
Radiculopathy			MRI Cervical wo, Thoracic wo or Lumbar wo	72141, 72146 or 72148
Spinal cord ischemia			MRI Cervical w & wo or Thoracic spine w & wo	72156 or 72157
Spinal cord lesion			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158
Spinal stenosis			MRI Cervical wo, Thoracic wo or Lumbar wo	72141, 72146 or 72148
Syrinx			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158
Transverse myelitis			MRI Cervical w & wo, Thoracic w & wo or Lumbar w & wo	72156, 72157, or 72158

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Musculoskeletal				
CLINICAL GUIDELINES	CT		MRI	
	EXAM DESCRIPTION	CT/CTA CPT CODES	EXAM DESCRIPTION	MRI/MRA CPT CODES
Bone contusion, joint			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Bone contusion, non joint			MRI Lower or Upper Ext other than JT wo	(L)73718 or (U)73218
Bursitis			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
DJD			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Fracture, joint	CT Lower or Upper Extremity wo	(L)73700 (U)73200	MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Fracture, non joint	CT Lower or Upper Extremity wo	(L)73700 (U)73200	MRI Lower or Upper Ext other than JT wo	(L)73718 or (U)73218
Joint effusion			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Labral tear, hip			MRI Lower Ext JT wo	73721
Labral tear, hip, consider arthrogram if post surgery			MRI Lower Ext JT w	73722
Labral tear, shoulder			MRI Upper Ext JT wo	73221
Labral tear, shoulder, consider arthrogram if post surgery			MRI Upper Ext JT w	73222
Ligamentous tear, wrist, consider arthrogram			MRI Upper Ext JT w	73222
Meniscal, ligamentous tear knee			MRI Lower Ext JT wo	73721
Muscle injury, joint			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Muscle injury, non joint			MRI Lower or Upper Ext other than JT wo	(L)73718 or (U)73218
Osteoarthritis			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Osteochondral defect, joint			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Osteomyelitis, joint			MRI Lower or Upper Ext JT w & wo	(L)73723 or (U)73223
Osteomyelitis, non joint			MRI Lower or Upper Ext other than JT w & wo	(L)73720 or (U)73220
Rheumatoid arthritis, Inflammatory arthritis, Inflammatory arthropathy, Synovitis			MRI Lower or Upper Ext JT w & wo	(L)73723 or (U)73223
Rotator cuff tear			MRI Upper Ext JT wo	73221
Rotator cuff tear, consider arthrogram if post surgery			MRI Upper Ext JT w	73222
Soft tissue mass or bony lesion, joint	CT Lower or Upper Extremity w & wo	(L)73702 (U)73202	MRI Lower or Upper Ext JT w & wo	(L)73723 or (U)73223
Soft tissue mass or bony lesion, non joint	CT Lower or Upper Extremity w & wo	(L)73702 (U)73202	MRI Lower or Upper Ext other than JT w & wo	(L)73720 or (U)73220
Tendon tear or injury			MRI Lower Ext JT wo or MRI Upper Ext JT wo	(L)73721 or (U)73221
Triangular fibrocartilage tear (wrist)			MRI Upper Ext JT wo	73221

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