



# CT EXAMS WITH CONTRAST: WHAT TO ORDER AND HOW

Clinical Indications	With IV Contrast	With Oral Contrast	Without IV Contrast	With AND Without IV Contrast	What to Order
<b>Head/Brain</b>					
Headaches; Recent trauma;			✓		CT Head without Contrast
R/O Masses; Swelling; Facial Pain; Known CVA/Bleed				✓	CT Head with and without IV Contrast
Inner Ear canal; Temporal Bones			✓		CT IAC without IV Contrast
R/O Acoustic Neuroma - in cases where patient is unable to have an MRI due to contraindications	✓				CT IAC with IV Contrast
Sinusitis; Headaches/Frontal facial pain			✓		CT Sinus without Contrast
Trauma; Fracture; Foreign Body			✓		CT Orbits without Contrast
R/O Mass; Swelling, Blurred Vision or other orbital disease				✓	CT Orbits with and without IV Contrast
Facial trauma; fractures; dental implant studies			✓		CT Facial without Contrast
<b>Soft Tissue Neck Exams</b>					
R/O Neck Mass or Neck Swelling - difficulty swallowing	✓				CT Soft Tissue Neck with IV Contrast
<b>CT Abdomen &amp; Pelvis Exams</b>					
General Abdominal Pain; Nausea; Vomiting; Diarrhea; Constipation; Weight Gain/Loss; Cancer Staging/Follow-up	✓	✓			CT Abdomen and/or Pelvis with Oral and IV Contrast
Upper Abdominal Symptoms (from diaphragm to top of pelvic bones)	✓	✓			CT Abdomen with Oral and IV Contrast
Lower Abdominal/Pelvic symptoms	✓	✓			CT Pelvis with Oral and IV Contrast
Mid-Abdominal and/or generalized symptoms:	✓	✓			CT Abdomen and Pelvis with Oral and IV Contrast
Kidney Stones (Known)/Urinary Tract Studies			✓		CT Pelvis without Contrast
Hematuria/Rule out Kidney Stones (Suspected); R/O Tumor				✓	CT Abdomen & Pelvis with and without IV Contrast ( <b>no oral contrast</b> )
Angiography	✓				CT Abdomen and/or Pelvis with IV Contrast ( <b>no oral contrast</b> )
Virtual Colonoscopy			✓		Virtual Colonoscopy
Appendicitis	✓	✓			CT Abdomen & Pelvis with Oral and IV Contrast
Mass (Pancreas, Adrenals*, Liver) <i>*For Adrenal exams, please contact RDC for ordering specifics as they vary by exam and by individual.</i>		✓		✓	Multi-phase Abdominal CT with and without IV and Oral Contrast (3-Phase)
<b>CT Chest Exams</b>					
Abnormal Chest X-ray; Lung nodules; Masses Shortness of breath; Pulmonary embolism; Cough; Congestion; Cancer; Chest pain	✓				CT Chest with IV Contrast
Allergies to Iodinated Contrast, interstitial lung disease			✓		CT Chest without Contrast
<b>CT Spine Exams: Cervical, Thoracic &amp; Lumbar</b>					
Back pain, Fractures, Post Surgical Studies* <i>*If Contrast is specifically requested by the Physician, this contrast will be administered Intrathecally (a needle is guided into the spinal column and contrast is injected into the thecal sac surrounding the spinal cord). This will require the patient to have a fluoroscopic study first during which the injection will take place, followed by a CT of the area in question.</i>	✓ (intrathecal)		✓		CT Chest without Contrast  CT Myelogram
<b>CT Extremities</b>					
R/O suspected fractures and/or evaluate known fractures			✓		CT Extremity without Contrast
Soft Tissue Masses - in cases where patient is unable to have an MRI due to contraindications, or due to Doctor specification				✓	Contact RDC for best protocol to follow