

CT CONTRAST IN TRAUMA PATIENTS

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The radiologist reading the examination is the supervising specialist physician for the imaging examination. Radiology policies supersede ordering clinician preferences. Any deviation from Radiology departmental policies requires a discussion between the ordering provider and the supervising radiologist.
- The reason for any deviation from Radiology departmental policies must be documented on the technologist worksheet.

IV CONTRAST

- All trauma patients who undergo CT imaging of the abdomen, abdomen/pelvis or chest/abdomen/pelvis require IV contrast except when deemed not indicated by the supervising radiologist based on examination indication and patient history.
- Relative contraindications to IV iodinated contrast include:
 - Patients with renal dysfunction (follow GFR guidelines).
 - Patients with IV iodinated contrast allergy (unless premedication administered).

ORAL CONTRAST

- Oral contrast is typically not indicated in trauma cases, unless there is a history of penetrating trauma or other clinical suspicion for bowel injury. Oral and/or rectal contrast can be given at the discretion of the ordering clinician.
- The following are relative contraindications to oral contrast:
 - Patients with oral contrast allergy (unless premedication administered).
 - Patients with severe vomiting or high-risk for aspiration.