



## CT Head with CTA Head Guideline

The purpose of this policy is to establish appropriate standards for ordering CT Head without contrast and CTA Head with reference to ACR Appropriateness Criteria®.

### Scope

This guideline is to ensure the appropriate exams are being ordered when needed based on clinical indications. The guideline applies to patients being imaged at a facility where MRG is to interpret the exam. A copy of this guideline will be distributed to those facilities and available online.

### Guideline

#### Emergency Room Patients:

- If a patient is to have a CTA Head for acute symptoms, a *CT Head Without Contrast* must be performed as well.  
Two separate orders are to be placed for the patient, ***CT Head Without Contrast*** and ***CTA Head***.

#### Outpatients:

- If a patient is to have a CTA Head for acute symptoms, a *CT Head Without Contrast* must be performed as well.  
Two separate orders are to be placed for the patient, ***CT Head Without Contrast*** and ***CTA Head***.
- If significant clinical change since last CT Head Without (acute symptoms, e.g. new onset headache), a **new** CT Head Without Contrast to be performed prior to the CTA Head.  
Two separate orders are to be placed for the patient, ***CT Head Without Contrast*** and ***CTA Head***.
- If patient has a known aneurysm or vascular lesion and no clinical changes, only a ***CTA Head*** may be performed.

**If you have questions, please call MRG at (541) 618-5800.**