




TRIAD RADIOLOGY

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From: Michael Reardon, MD 
TRA MR Medical Director

Subject: CT Topograms for Code Purple Patients from Outside Facilities

At the last Radiology QA meeting in July, Dr. Markwalter asked about the criteria for ordering CT topograms for stroke patients as related to MR safety screening. Note that Page 28 of the TRA MRI Safety Manual (dated March 2018) states the following:

In the acute care setting, "Code Purple" refers to an incoming patient with a suspected stroke. Because time is critical to these patients, a whole-body CT topogram is performed immediately after the head CT exam while the patient is still on the CT scanner bed. The head CT and the whole body topogram are then reviewed by an MR Radiologist to confirm quickly that the patient may safely undergo the MR procedure.

*Periodically, to expedite a pending MR procedure, a referring physician may order a whole-body CT topogram rather than screening x-rays. Although such a topogram may be used to clear the chest, abdomen, and pelvis, **the topogram of the head is INADEQUATE for clearing the patient's orbits.** Head x-rays (i.e., two identical Waters views, same projection, not tilted) must still be ordered for review by the MR Radiologist.*

Effective immediately, please note the following addition to this statement in the Manual and **share this important information with all MR team members:**

For Code Purple patients coming from an outside facility, unless the outside CT exam has been loaded into PACS and includes images that fully cover the orbits, orbital x-rays are needed in addition to the whole-body CT.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at mreardon@triadradiology.com.

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