

	Policy:	Diagnostic Imaging- X-ray Knee (Adult)
	Number:	
Approved by: MAC November 2008	Manual:	
Signature:	Section:	Medical Directive Emergency
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Procedure:

- A knee x-ray is ordered for the following injuries:

Indications:

Knee injury patients with one or more of these findings:

1. Isolated tenderness of the patella Tenderness at the head of the fibula OR
2. Inability to flex to 90 degrees OR
3. Inability to bear weight both immediately and in the emergency department (4 steps; unable to transfer weight twice onto each lower limb regardless of limping).
4. Age > 55 years

Contraindications:

- Known or suspected pregnancy
- Unstable patient-physician to be contacted immediately
- Signs or symptoms of neurovascular compromise in the affected limb-physician to be contacted immediately
- Open fractures will be assessed by the emergency physician directly
- Patient is intoxicated or has other distracting injuries and is unable to follow direction, maintain motor control or is uncooperative

Guidelines:

- See Ottawa Knee Rules poster

References:

1. *Stiell IG et al “ Deprivation of a decision Rule for the Use of Radiography in Acute Knee Injuries: Ann of Emerg Med Oct 1995 26(4) 405-412*
2. *Stiell IG et al “ Prospective Validation of a Decision Rule for the Use of radiography in Acute Knee Injuries” JAMA Feb 1996 275(8) 611-615*
3. *Seaberg DC et al, “ Multicenter Comparison of Two Clinical Decision Rules for the Use of radiography in Acute, High Risk Knee Injuries” Ann Emerg Med July 1998 32(1) 8-13*
4. *Empananza JI et al, “ Validation for the Ottawa Knee Rules” Ann Emerg Med Oct 2001 38(4) 364-368*
5. *Marx: Rosen’s Emergency Medicine: Concepts and Clinical Practice, 5th Edition 2002 472-486*

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