

	Policy:	Diagnostic Imaging- X-ray Wrist (Adult or Peds > 5 years)
	Number:	
Approved by: Medical Advisory Committee	Manual:	
Signature:	Section:	Medical Directive Emergency
	Page:	1 of 2

Procedure:

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

Indications:

Direct blow or trauma to the wrist (involving movement of either arm/wrist or object through an arc of motion) and:

Deformity

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:

- Do not order X ray in patients who have pain without a mechanism of injury

References:

1. Fry M et al. Triage nurses order x-rays for patients with isolated distal limb injuries: A 12-month ED study. *Journ Emerg Nursing* 2001; 27(1):17-22
2. Parris et al. Do triage nurse-initiated X-rays for limb injuries reduce patient transit time? *Accid and Emerg Nursing* 1997; 5(1):14-15
3. Lindley-Jones M et al. Triage nurse requested x rays – the results of a national survey. *J Accid and Emerg med* 2000; 17: 108-110
4. Campbell D. Triage nurse initiated x-rays for limb injuries are accurate and efficient. *Emerg Med* 1995;7:253.
5. Hunt A, McCraig C. Do triage x-ray protocols really decrease ED stay time for patients? Gema Library, 1998. Available: URL: <http://gema.library.ucsf.edu>.
6. Davies J. No problem! Establishing a nurse requested x-rays service. *Accid Emerg Nurs* 1994;2:54-6.
7. Overton-Brown P, Anthony D. Towards a partnership in care: nurses' and doctors' interpretation of extremity trauma radiology. *J Adv Nurs* 1998;27:890-6.
8. Kelly A, McCarthy S, Richardson S, Parris W, Kerr A. Triage nurse initiated x-rays for limb injuries are accurate and efficient. *Emerg Med* 1995;7:81-4.

Effective Date: May 25, 2009	Revised Date:	Version: May 2009
File Name: X-ray Wrist ED-DI-04		

9. Nocera A. Triage nurse initiated x-rays for limb injuries are accurate and efficient. *Emerg Med* 1996;8:47-50.
10. Seaberg DC, Macleod BA. Correlation between triage nurse and physician ordering of ED tests. *Am J Emerg Med* 1998;16:8-11.
11. Wong T, Lee K, Lau C, Fu Y, Fung K. A protocol helps emergency triage nurses to request x-rays. *Emerg Med* 1997;9:307-10.
12. Ropp L, Blouin R, Dulberg C, Li M. Radiographic ordering: agreement between the triage nurse and the physician in a pediatric emergency department. *J Emerg Med* 1992;8:697-700.
13. Parris W, McCarthy S, Kelly A, Richardson S. Management: Do triage nurse-initiated x-rays for limb injuries reduce patient transit time? *Accid Emerg Nurs* 1997;5:14-5.