

	Policy:	Policy for Implementation of Diagnostic Imaging Medical Directives
	Number:	
Approved by: MAC November 2008	Manual:	
Signature:	Section:	Medical Directive Emergency
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I. Indication:

Diagnostic imaging orders may be initiated on patients presenting to the Emergency department with complaints as identified on the appended Order Table.

Recipient patients includes any adult patient ≥ 16 years of age presenting to the ED prior to first contact with the attending physician. Diagnostic Imaging directives that are for pediatrics as well, are for children that are greater than the age of 5 years, and the directive will specifically indicate that it is a pediatric directive as well.

If patients have diagnostic imaging administered under this directive but leave without being seen by the attending physician:

- Staff will forward the record of studies administered to the attending physician for disposition.

II. Authorized Implementers:

All ED nurses and designated staff who have successfully completed the relevant ED Medical Directive orientation.

III. Consent:

Staff implementing the directive will obtain consent in accordance with the Health Care Consent Act and any relevant hospital policies and procedures.

IV. Guidelines for Implementing the Order/Procedure:

- See appended Order Table

V. Documentation & Communication:

Implementing staff document the:

- Specify plain film radiography order in the order section of the patient record, noting the medical directive name and number and signing off the order with the signature as per the attending physician where known. Ensure that any requisition contains this information.
- Indication for implementation, implementation and patient response in accordance with hospital recordkeeping policies.
- Clear and timely notification, communication and documentation between the nurse and the physician are critical to safe, proper use of a medical directive.
- Nurse to ensure that patient has been identified properly and has armband applied.

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