

# Evolut Clinical Guideline ~~068-2000~~ for Abdomen Pelvis Computed Tomography (CT)

<b>Guideline <del>or Policy</del> Number:</b> Evolut_CG_ <del>068</del> <u>2000</u>	<b><u>Applicable Codes</u></b>	
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
GENERAL INFORMATION .....	3
PURPOSE .....	3
<b>INDICATIONS FOR ABDOMEN/PELVIS CT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
EVALUATION OF ABDOMINAL PAIN OF UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY .....	3
INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE .....	4
EVALUATION OF INFLAMMATION AND INFECTION .....	4
<i>Peritonitis</i> .....	4
<i>Diverticulitis or Acute Appendicitis</i> .....	4
<i>Pancreatitis</i> .....	5
<i>Other Causes of Inflammation or Infection</i> .....	5
GASTROINTESTINAL .....	5
<i>Suspected Small Bowel Obstruction</i> .....	5
<i>Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage and Ischemia</i> .....	5
GENITOURINARY .....	6
<i>Evaluation of Hematuria</i> .....	6
<i>Known or Suspected Kidney or Ureteral Stone</i> .....	6
<i>Preoperative Urinary Stone Planning</i> .....	<del>76</del>
<i>Postoperative Urinary Stone Follow-up CT</i> .....	7
<i>Evaluation of Pyelonephritis</i> .....	<del>87</del>
<i>Evaluation of Complicated Urinary Tract Infection</i> .....	<del>87</del>
ABDOMINAL AORTIC DISEASE .....	<del>87</del>
<i>Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)</i> .....	<del>87</del>
<i>Postoperative Follow-up of Aortic Repair</i> .....	<del>98</del>
HERNIA .....	<del>109</del>
OTHER INDICATIONS FOR ABDOMEN/PELVIC CT COMBO .....	<del>119</del>
<i>Transplants</i> .....	<del>1140</del>
<i>Trauma</i> .....	<del>1140</del>
SUSPECTED MALIGNANCY .....	<del>1140</del>
KNOWN MALIGNANCY .....	<del>1441</del>
<i>Initial Staging or Recurrence</i> .....	<del>1441</del>
<i>Restaging</i> .....	<del>1441</del>

<i>Surveillance</i> .....	<u>1411</u>
<b>PREOPERATIVE OR POSTOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT</b> .....	<u>1714</u>
<b>FURTHER EVALUATION OF INDETERMINATE FINDINGS</b> .....	<u>1714</u>
<b>IMAGING IN KNOWN GENETIC CONDITIONS</b> .....	<u>1714</u>
COMBINATION STUDIES FOR KNOWN GENETIC CONDITIONS.....	<u>1815</u>
<i>Neck/Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis CT</i> .....	<u>1815</u>
<b>OTHER COMBINATION STUDIES WITH ABDOMEN PELVIS CT</b> .....	<u>1815</u>
ABDOMEN AND PELVIS CTA / ABDOMEN AND PELVIS CT .....	<u>1815</u>
CHEST/ABDOMEN AND PELVIS CT .....	<u>1815</u>
CHEST/ABDOMEN AND PELVIS CT / PET .....	<u>1916</u>
SINUS/CHEST/ABDOMEN AND PELVIS CT / BRAIN MRI .....	<u>1916</u>
COMBINATION STUDIES FOR MALIGNANCY FOR INITIAL STAGING OR RESTAGING.....	<u>1916</u>
<b>CODING AND STANDARDS</b> .....	<u>1916</u>
CODES.....	<u>1916</u>
APPLICABLE LINES OF BUSINESS .....	<u>1916</u>
<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	<u>2016</u>
PARANEOPLASTIC SYNDROMES.....	<u>2016</u>
CONTRAINDICATIONS AND PREFERRED STUDIES .....	<u>2117</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE</b> .....	<u>2117</u>
<b>ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE</b> .....	<u>2319</u>
<b>POLICY HISTORY</b> .....	<u>2319</u>
<b>LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE</b> .....	<u>2520</u>
GUIDELINE APPROVAL .....	<u>2520</u>
<i>Committee</i> .....	<u>2520</u>
DISCLAIMER .....	<u>2520</u>
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<u>2622</u>

## STATEMENT

### General Information

- *It is an expectation that all patients receive care/services from a licensed clinician. All appropriate supporting documentation, including recent pertinent office visit notes, laboratory data, and results of any special testing must be provided. If applicable: All prior relevant imaging results and the reason that alternative imaging cannot be performed must be included in the documentation submitted.*
- *Where a specific clinical indication is not directly addressed in this guideline, medical necessity determination will be made based on widely accepted standard of care criteria. These criteria are supported by evidence-based or peer-reviewed sources such as medical literature, societal guidelines and state/national recommendations.*
- *The guideline criteria in the following sections were developed utilizing evidence-based and peer-reviewed resources from medical publications and societal organization guidelines as well as from widely accepted standard of care, best practice recommendations.*

### Purpose

Abdomen and Pelvis Computed Tomography (CT) uses radiation to generate images of the organs and structures in the abdomen and pelvis.

## INDICATIONS FOR ABDOMEN/PELVIS CT

### Evaluation of Abdominal Pain of Unknown Etiology

- After initial workup of abdominal pain including laboratory evaluation and initial imaging has not revealed a cause when results of the following are provided <sup>(1)</sup>:
  - Appropriate laboratory testing (chemistry profile, complete blood count, and/or urinalysis) for the patient's presentation (e.g., suprapubic pain – UA, suspected pancreatitis – amylase/lipase etc.) **AND**
  - Initial imaging (such as ultrasound, barium study, nuclear medicine, or scope study) appropriate to the symptoms
    - E.g., for gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding, Complete Blood Count (CBC) and a scope study would be appropriate initial testing (however, a UA and ultrasound would not be)

**NOTE:** Not all of the above tests need to be performed, but both labs and initial imaging need to be performed

- For acute abdominal pain in a patient over the age of 65 <sup>(2)</sup>
- Initial evaluation of abnormal findings seen on other imaging, such as ultrasound (US) or x-ray, both the abdomen and pelvis are likely affected, and CT is the most reasonable next step for that diagnosis

## Inflammatory Bowel Disease (3–5)

- For evaluation of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) such as Crohn's or Ulcerative Colitis (includes CT enterography ~~(CTE)~~, however, MRI~~E~~ should be considered for age < 35 to reduce radiation exposure)
  - For suspected inflammatory bowel disease after complete work up including physical exam, labs, and recent colonoscopy
  - Known inflammatory bowel disease with recurrence or worsening signs/symptoms requiring re-evaluation or for monitoring therapy

## Evaluation of Inflammation and Infection

### *Peritonitis*

Suspected or known recent peritonitis **AND** at least one of the following <sup>(6,7)</sup>:

- Rebound, guarding (not voluntary) or rigid abdomen, **OR**
- Severe tenderness to palpation present over entire abdomen

### *Diverticulitis or Acute Appendicitis* <sup>(8,9)</sup>

- Suspected diverticulitis or acute appendicitis\*\* for initial imaging with at least **ONE** of the following <sup>(10)</sup>:
  - WBC Elevated
  - Fever
  - Anorexia
  - Nausea and vomiting

**NOTE:** If CT is requested for \*\*Use ultrasound or MRI in a pregnant woman with suspected appendicitis, ultrasound needs to be insufficient and a contraindication to MRI provided <sup>(11)</sup>

- Suspected appendicitis in a child (< age 18) <sup>(12)</sup> when ultrasound is inconclusive or cannot be completed (due to body habitus or inability to cooperate) **OR** when peritoneal signs are present (guarding, rebound) or other red flags
- Suspected diverticulitis when <sup>(13)</sup>:
  - Pain is present in the LLQ (< 3 months duration), medical records note suspicion for diverticulitis, the patient has no prior history of diverticulitis **AND** either:
    - LLQ tenderness is present on exam; **OR**
    - Patient is immunocompromised; **OR**
    - Patient has a history of diverticulitis, symptoms are similar to prior episodes, **AND** patient has failed treatment currently (treatment could be liquid diet or antibiotic)
- Complications of diverticulitis (diagnosed either clinically or by imaging) with severe abdominal/pelvic pain or severe tenderness or mass not responding to antibiotic

treatment <sup>(9)</sup>

### ***Pancreatitis*** <sup>(14)</sup>

Suspected or known acute pancreatitis when there is a reason to suspect extension beyond abdomen; into pelvis [and one or more of the following](#):

- Initial imaging for suspected acute pancreatitis due to epigastric pain with elevated amylase and/or lipase:
  - Mild presentation when symptom improvement is not seen after 72 hours of treatment and either:
    - Ultrasound has been performed and did not show an abnormality such as gallstones, dilated bile duct
    - Ultrasound suggests complications (such as fluid collection)
  - Severe presentation (such as fever, elevated WBC)
  - Decline in clinical status and/or suspected complication
- Known necrotizing pancreatitis requiring follow-up
- Pancreatitis by history (including pancreatic pseudocyst) with continued abdominal pain, early satiety, nausea, vomiting, or signs of infection greater than 4 weeks from initial presentation ~~when there is reason to suspect extensive disease extending into the pelvis (otherwise CT abdomen~~

### ***Other Causes of Inflammation or Infection***

- Any known infection that is clinically suspected to have created an abscess in the abdomen and pelvis
- For acute non-localized abdominal pain and fever <sup>(6)</sup>
- Any history of fistula that requires re-evaluation or is suspected to have recurred in the abdomen and pelvis
- Abnormal fluid collection seen on prior imaging that needs follow-up evaluation
- For suspected retroperitoneal fibrosis after labs and ultrasound have been completed and other etiologies for symptoms have been excluded ([retroperitoneal fibrosis](#) is a diagnosis of exclusion) <sup>(15,16)</sup>
- For known retroperitoneal fibrosis to determine extent of disease

## **Gastrointestinal**

### ***Suspected Small Bowel Obstruction***

- Crampy pain, vomiting, distention, high pitched or absent bowel sounds, prior history of abdominal surgery, or based on initial x-ray <sup>(17)</sup>

### ***Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage and Ischemia***

- Suspected colonic or mesenteric ischemia (CTA also appropriate) <sup>(18)</sup>
- Suspected small bowel bleeding when endoscopy and capsule endoscopy are inconclusive or negative <sup>(19)</sup>

## Genitourinary

### **Evaluation of Hematuria** <sup>(20)</sup>

#### **~~For evaluation of hematuria when stone is NOT suspected (includes CT urography (CTU))~~**

- Kidney Stone is NOT suspected AND
- Urinalysis is negative for infection or hematuria persists on urine microscopy following treatment of urinary tract infection AND
- Documented by 3 or more red blood cells (RBC) per high-power field on urinalysis and not based on a dipstick test AND At least one of the following:
  - Gross hematuria
    - ~~UA must be negative for infection~~
  - ~~UA can be negative for blood if hematuria is witnessed by patient or provider~~ > 25 RBC/hpf and infection has been excluded on urine microscopy
  - 3-25 RBC/hpf on urine microscopy AND ONE or more of the following:
    - >30 pack year smoking history
    - Male ≥ >age 60
    - Abnormal renal ultrasound
    - Negative renal ultrasound and repeat sample shows persistence of ≥ 3 RBC/hpf
  - ~~If not high risk (based on age, smoking history or > 25 RBC/hpf as above) need equivocal or abnormal renal ultrasound prior to CT~~

**NOTE:** There is not a separate CPT code for CT Urography (CTU); when needed this will be submitted as CT abdomen/pelvis. If a previous 'routine' CT abdomen/pelvis has been done (with or without and/without contrast), and a CTU is later requested, the previous CT must show a clear reason that additional delayed post-contrast images of the collecting system are needed.

### **Evaluation of Known or Suspected Kidney or Ureteral Stone** <sup>(21-23)</sup>

- Acute flank pain (< 2 weeks) and high suspicion for stone
- Subacute or chronic flank pain and one of the following:
  - Abnormal ultrasound
  - Fever or WBC > 15,000
  - Inadequate analgesia
  - KUB shows possible kidney stone

- Known stones with recent indeterminate imaging (ultrasound or KUB) when additional imaging may change management

~~**For evaluation of known or suspected kidney or ureteral stone in a patient with acute flank pain**<sup>(20)</sup>~~

~~**CT is indicated if one or more of the following is present:**~~

~~**Atypical presentation (i.e., fever or WBC >15,000)**~~

~~**Inadequate analgesia**~~

~~**Abnormal or indeterminate ultrasound (with findings needing further evaluation with CT)**~~

~~**KUB has been provided and is highly suggestive of kidney or ureteral stone (US is the preferred initial imaging test but if provided, information on KUB can be used to make decision)**~~

~~**Ultrasound should be performed PRIOR to CT in the following situations (CT is needed only if US is inconclusive or has findings that need further imaging):**~~

~~**Pediatric and pregnant patients (MRU preferred if further imaging indicated)**~~

~~**Typical presentation without signs/symptoms of infection in a patient <65**~~

~~**CT is allowed for acute abdominal pain, in general, for patients >65**~~  
~~**Preoperative Urinary Stone Planning**<sup>(24)</sup>~~

- No recent CT has been performed within the past 6 weeks **OR**
- ~~CT is indicated when no imaging has been done in the last 30 days, or if If passage or movement of stones is suspected and imaging may ~~will~~ change management~~

~~**Postoperative Urinary Stone Follow-up CT**<sup>(25)</sup>~~

- Symptomatic patients following:
  - Ureteroscopic extraction of an intact stone
  - Ureteroscopy with lithotripsy/fragmentation of a radiolucent stone

- Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy
- Further evaluation of hydronephrosis seen on post-operative ultrasound ([following ureteroscopy or ESWL](#))

### **Evaluation of Pyelonephritis** <sup>(26,27)</sup>

When other imaging such as ultrasound is abnormal:

- For a patient who remains febrile after 72 hours of treatment or has deterioration in clinical status
- With the [one](#) following co-morbid conditions: personal history of stone disease or renal obstruction, recurrent pyelonephritis, vesicoureteral reflux, immune compromise, prior renal transplant with native kidneys in place, advanced age or lack of response to initial therapy (based on culture)

### **Evaluation of Complicated Urinary Tract Infection** <sup>(26)</sup>

- **Women:** UTI is considered complicated (and therefore imaging (ultrasound and/or CT) is warranted) in any of the following situations (may be done after resolution of infection):
  - Immunocompromised host
  - Persistence of bacteria or symptoms after culture specific treatment
  - Rapid recurrence with same bacteria after treatment
  - Multidrug resistant bacteria
  - When there is suspicion of renal calculi or obstruction <sup>(28)</sup>
- **Men:** Any UTI is considered complicated due to high likelihood of anatomic abnormalities; therefore imaging (ultrasound and/or CT) is [warranted/indicated](#) <sup>(29)</sup>

## **Abdominal Aortic Disease**

### **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)**

- Suspected [or known](#) [asymptomatic](#) abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) with **ALL** of the following:
  - [Prior ultrasound is inconclusive or insufficient](#)
  - [The study is ordered at the appropriate AAA surveillance intervals](#) <sup>(30)</sup>:
    - Aneurysm size 2.5-3 cm, every 10 years
    - Aneurysm size 3.0-3.9 cm, every 3 years
    - Aneurysm size 4.0-4.9 cm, annually
    - [Aneurysm size 5.0-5.4 cm, every 6 months](#)
- [Known or suspected symptomatic AAA](#) <sup>(30,31)</sup>
  - Symptoms may include:

- Abrupt onset of severe sharp or stabbing pain in the chest, back or abdomen (could indicate possible aneurysm rupture)
- Acute abdominal or back pain with a pulsatile or epigastric mass
- Acute abdominal or back pain and at high risk for aortic aneurysm and/or aortic syndrome (risk factors include hypertension, atherosclerosis, prior cardiac or aortic surgery, underlying aneurysm, connective tissue disorder (Such as Marfan syndrome, vascular form of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome), and bicuspid aortic valve) <sup>(32)</sup>

### **Postoperative Follow-up of Aortic Repair** <sup>(30,31)</sup>

Follow-up for post-endovascular repair (EVAR) or open repair of AAA or abdominal extent of iliac artery aneurysms at the following intervals (CT preferred for routine follow-up): with any ONE of the following:<sup>(30)</sup>

- Routine, baseline post-EVAR study when a reason CTA rather than CT is needed has been provided (such as complex anatomy or suspected complications) with any ONE of the following:
  - Within 1 month of the procedure
  - Continued follow-up at the following intervals:
    - If no endoleak or sac enlargement is seen:
      - Annually with past inconclusive or insufficient monitor with ultrasound ~~When ultrasound US is abnormal or insufficient CT/MR can be used to monitor annually~~
      - Every 5 years (inconclusive or insufficient ultrasound not required at the 5-year interval) monitor with CT/MR
    - If type II endoleak or sac enlargement is seen at any point in time:
      - Every 6 months x 2 years, then annually (does not require prior ultrasound US)
- Routine follow-up after open repair of AAA when a reason CTA is needed rather than CT has been provided (e.g., complex vascular anatomy or suspected complications) with any ONE of the following:
  - Within 1 year postoperatively then
  - Annually with past inconclusive or insufficient monitor with ultrasound ~~then~~ When US is abnormal or insufficient CT/MR can be used to monitor annually
  - Every 5 years (inconclusive or insufficient ultrasound not required at the 5-year interval)

**NOTE: If symptomatic or imaging shows increasing or new findings related to stent graft, —more frequent imaging may be needed as clinically indicated** ~~monitor with CT/MR~~

- ~~If symptomatic or imaging shows increasing, or new findings related to stent graft - more frequent imaging may be needed~~

- Suspected complication ~~such as: (such as,~~ new-onset lower extremity claudication, ischemia, or reduction in ankle brachial index (ABI) after aneurysm repair)
- Evaluation of endovascular/interventional abdominal vascular procedures for luminal patency versus restenosis due to conditions such as atherosclerosis, thromboembolism, and intimal hyperplasia
- Evaluation of post-operative complications, such as e.g., pseudoaneurysms, related to surgical bypass grafts, vascular stents, and stent-grafts in the peritoneal cavity

## ~~Suspected or Known Hernia~~ (33,34)

- ~~Abdominal/pelvic pain suspected to be due to an occult, Spigelian, or incisional hernia when physical exam and prior imaging is non-diagnostic or equivocal OR if requested as a preoperative study~~
  - ~~If inguinal hernia is suspected, reason to suspect abdominal involvement is needed (otherwise CT Pelvis is indicated)~~
  - ~~If umbilical hernia is suspected, reason to suspect pelvic involvement is needed (otherwise CT Abdomen is indicated)~~
  - ~~Hernia with suspected complications (e.g., bowel obstruction or strangulation, or non-reducible) based on symptoms (e.g., diarrhea, hematochezia, vomiting, severe pain, or guarding), physical exam (guarding, rebound) or prior imaging.<sup>(32)</sup>~~
- Suspected hernia and one of the following:
  - Deep intraabdominal/pelvic hernia (post-Roux-en-Y, obturator, sciatic or perineal)
  - Non-midline ventral hernia (including Spigelian hernia)
  - Parastomal hernia
  - Occult, incisional, recurrent or umbilical hernia and exam AND ultrasound are non-diagnostic or equivocal
  - Inguinal hernia and exam AND ultrasound are non-diagnostic or equivocal AND reason upper abdominal imaging is needed is provided
  - Umbilical hernia and exam AND ultrasound are non-diagnostic or equivocal AND reason upper abdominal imaging is needed is provided
- Known or suspected hernia with suspected complications based on one or more of the following:
  - Symptoms such as severe pain, vomiting, diarrhea or blood in stool
  - Exam findings such as inability to reduce hernia, severe tenderness, guarding, rebound
  - Complication is suggested on prior imaging
- Known hernia and imaging is needed for surgical planning
  - Inguinal hernia needs reason upper abdominal imaging is needed (otherwise CT Pelvis is indicated)

- Umbilical hernia needs reason pelvic imaging is needed (otherwise CT Abdomen is indicated)
- ~~For confirming the diagnosis of a recurrent hernia when ultrasound is negative or non-diagnostic~~
- ~~Complex ventral hernia that is  $\geq 10$  cm for pre-operative planning<sup>(32)</sup>~~
- ~~Deep intraabdominal/pelvic hernia is suspected (post-Roux-en-Y, obturator, sciatic or perineal) (does not require US first but this type of hernia needs to be specified in notes)~~

## Other Indications for Abdomen/Pelvic CT Combo <sup>(35)</sup>

- For fever of unknown origin (temperature of  $\geq 101$  degrees for a minimum of 3 weeks) after standard diagnostic tests after all of the following has been completed and a source is not identified: complete blood count with differential, three sets of blood cultures, chest x-ray, complete metabolic panel, urinalysis, ESR, ANA, RA, serologic testing (EBV, EMV, HIV and hepatitis), tuberculin test, are negative (see [Background](#) section)<sup>(36)</sup>
- For acute unilateral (or asymmetric) lower extremity edema with negative or inconclusive doppler US
- For chronic (greater than 3 months) unilateral (or asymmetric) lower extremity edema and suspicion of malignant cause<sup>(37)</sup>
- ~~Suspected pelvic congestion syndrome (including May-Thurner and nutcracker syndromes) when ultrasound is indeterminate with **NO CONTRAINDICATION TO CT**<sup>(38)</sup>  
For evaluation of suspected May-Thurner syndrome (CTV/MRV preferred)<sup>(36)</sup>~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~
- For further evaluation of a new onset or non-reducible varicocele<sup>(39)</sup>

## Transplants

- Prior to solid organ transplantation
- For initial workup prior to Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT)

## Trauma <sup>(40)</sup>

- Suspected retroperitoneal hematoma or hemorrhage based on lab or physical findings
- Blunt injury with suspicion of multisystem trauma and hematuria
- Penetrating abdominal injury with suspicion of multisystem trauma with or without hematuria

## Suspected Malignancy

- Unconfirmed diagnosis of cancer, for further evaluation of indeterminate or questionable findings:
  - Initial evaluation of suspicious masses/tumors found by physical exam or imaging



For SIADH (hyponatremia + increased urine osmolality), there is a high association with small cell lung cancer, therefore imaging typically starts with chest CT. If other symptoms suggest a different diagnosis other than small cell lung cancer, different imaging studies may be reasonable.

For hypercalcemia (high serum calcium, low-normal PTH, high PTHrP) it is reasonable to start with bone imaging followed by a more directed evaluation such as mammogram, chest, abdomen, and pelvis imaging as appropriate.

For Cushing syndrome (hypokalemia, normal-high midnight serum ACTH NOT suppressed with dexamethasone) abdominal and chest imaging is reasonable. If dexamethasone suppression test DOES suppress ACTH, pituitary MRI is reasonable.

For hypoglycemia, labs drawn during a period of hypoglycemia (glucose < 55, typically a 72 hour fast) (insulin level, C-peptide, and IGF-2:IGF-1 ratio) should be done to evaluate for an insulinoma. An elevated insulin level, elevated C-peptide and/or normal IGF-2:IGF-1 ratio warrant CT or MRI abdomen to look for insulinoma. A low insulin, low C-peptide and/or elevated IGF-2:IGF-1 ratio warrant chest and abdominal imaging.

When a paraneoplastic neurologic syndrome is suspected, nuclear and cytoplasmic antibody panels are often ordered to further identify specific tumor types. Results are needed prior to imaging. Because these tests are highly specific, if an antibody highly associated with a specific cancer is positive, then further imaging for that cancer is reasonable. For example, anti-Hu has a high association with SCLC and chest CT would be reasonable. Anti-MA2 has a high association with testicular cancer and testicular ultrasound would be a reasonable next step.

- 
- To locate a pheochromocytoma once there is clear biochemical evidence
- For suspected gestational trophoblastic disease when chest imaging suggests distant disease <sup>(48)</sup>
- For elevation of pP persistently elevated carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) in a patient with no cancer history after completing clinical workup (including laboratory evaluation (including CBC, CMP, repeat CEA), initial imaging (ultrasound) and colonoscopy), no cause is identified and CEA is >10 ng/ml, or fails to drop below 5 ng/ml after 3-6 months intervals
- For evaluation of thrombocytosis or thrombocytopenia when one or more of the following are present:
  - Any additional cytopenia (i.e., leukopenia, anemia)
  - LDH elevation
  - Splenomegaly on exam or imaging
  - Palpable lymphadenopathy
  - Bone marrow biopsy has been completed and concern for myeloproliferative disorder persists
  - Genetic mutation increasing risk of myeloproliferative disorder (such as JAK-2 mutation) on peripheral smear or bone marrow biopsy <sup>(49)</sup>

## Known Malignancy

### **Initial Staging or Recurrence**

- Abdomen and Pelvis CT is appropriate for initial staging of the majority of malignancies when either biopsy proven or suspected based on prior imaging

### **Restaging**

- Abdomen and Pelvis CT is indicated for restaging during active treatment (every 2-3 cycles of chemo or immunotherapy, following radiation and/or after surgery) for the majority of cancers
- Abdomen and Pelvis CT is indicated **in addition to PET** while on active treatment every 2-3 cycles of chemo or immunotherapy for the following:
  - Hodgkin Lymphoma <sup>(50)</sup>
  - Pediatric Aggressive Mature B-Cell Lymphomas <sup>(51)</sup>
  - Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma <sup>(52)</sup>

### **Surveillance**

Abdomen and Pelvis CT is indicated during surveillance for the following malignancies at the intervals defined below:

**NOTE: For any patient with stage IV cancer (any type) that is either in remission or on a treatment break, Abdomen and Pelvis CT is indicated every 3-6 months**

- Adrenocortical Carcinoma: every 3-12 months for 5 years then as clinically indicated <sup>(53)</sup>
- Anal Carcinoma: every 3-6 months for 1-2 years, then every 6-12 months for an additional year <sup>(54)</sup>
- Biliary Tract Cancers (Ampullary Adenocarcinoma, Cholangiocarcinomas and Gallbladder): every 3-6 months for 2 years then every 6-12 months for up to 5 years then as clinically indicated <sup>(55)</sup>
- ~~Bone Tumors and Sarcomas (Chondrosarcoma, Chordoma, Giant Cell Tumor of Bone, Ewing Sarcoma, Soft Tissue Sarcoma, Osteosarcoma)~~
  - ~~Every 3-6 months for 5 years, then annually for an additional 5 years then as clinically indicated~~
- Bladder Cancer <sup>(56)</sup>:
  - Non-muscle invasive:
    - Low risk and Intermediate risk: once at baseline at end of treatment then at clinically indicated
    - High risk<sup>\*</sup>: once at baseline then annually until 10 years from end of treatment then as clinically indicated
      - **NOTE: High risk bladder cancer is defined as high grade (Grade 3) tumor AND any one of the following: associated CIS, T1, tumor > 3 cm or multifocal,**

BCG refractory (unresponsive to BCG), variant histology (micropapillary, plasmacytoid, small cell), presence of lymphovascular invasion, or prostatic urethral invasion

- Muscle Invasive OR Urothelial carcinoma of the upper urinary tract, prostate or urethra: every 3-6 months for 2 years, then annually for up to 5 years then as clinically indicated
- Bone Tumors and Sarcomas (Chondrosarcoma, Chordoma, Giant Cell Tumor of Bone, Ewing Sarcoma, Soft Tissue Sarcoma, Osteosarcoma) <sup>(57,58)</sup>
  - Every 3-6 months for 5 years, then annually for an additional 5 years then as clinically indicated
- Colon Cancer ~~(Stage II or higher)~~ <sup>(59)</sup>:
  - Stage II: every 6-12 months for 5 years, then as clinically indicated
  - Stage III: every 6-12 months for 5 years, then as clinically indicated every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6-12 months for 3 years, then as clinically indicated
- Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers: every 3-6 months for 2 years, then annually for up to 5 years <sup>(60)</sup>
- Gastric Cancer: every 6 months for 2 years, then annually up to 5 years then as clinically indicated <sup>(61)</sup>
- Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors (GIST): every 3-6 months for 3-5 years, then annually <sup>(62)</sup>
- Hepatocellular Carcinoma: every 3-6 months for 2 years, then every 6 months indefinitely <sup>(63)</sup>
- Lymphoma (Follicular, Diffuse Large B-Cell, Burkitt, Hodgkin, Marginal Zone, T-Cell) and Hairy Cell Leukemia <sup>(64-66)</sup>:
  - Every 3-6 months for 2 years, then annually
- Melanoma: Cutaneous ~~(stage II or higher)~~: every 3-12 months for 2 years then every 6-12 months for 3 years, then as clinically indicated <sup>(67)</sup>
- Merkel Cell Carcinoma every 3-6 months for 3 years, then every 6-12 months indefinitely <sup>(68)</sup>
- Mesothelioma (Pleural and Peritoneal): every 3-6 months for 5 years then annually until 10 years, then as clinically indicated <sup>(69,70)</sup>
- Neuroblastoma: every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6-12 months for 2 years, then as clinically indicated <sup>(71)</sup>
- Neuroendocrine Tumors: every 3-6 months for 5 years then every 6-12 months for 5 years, then as clinically indicated <sup>(53)</sup>
- Occult Primary Tumors: follow indications based on how cancer is being treated (e.g. if treating as head and neck, defer to head and neck cancer guidance for all future requests). If tumor type is unclear: every 3-6 months for 2 years, then every 6-12 months for 3 years then annually <sup>(72)</sup>

- Ovarian cancer: every 3-6 months for 2 years then every 6-12 months for 3 years, ~~then as clinically indicated~~ <sup>(73)</sup>
- Pancreatic cancer: every 3-6 months for 2 years, then every 6-12 months as clinically indicated <sup>(74)</sup>
- Penile cancer: Every 3-6 months for 2 years, then every 6-12 months for an additional 3 years, then as clinically indicated <sup>(75)</sup>
- Prostate Cancer (~~observation~~): as clinically indicated ~~for rising PSA or symptoms suggestive of progression~~ <sup>(76)</sup>
- Renal Cell Carcinoma <sup>(77)</sup>:
  - Stage I: 1-3 months after treatment, then at 6 months and 12 months following treatment then annually within 3-6 months of treatment then annually for 5 years, then as clinically indicated
  - Stage II and higher: every 3-6 months for 3 years, then annually for 2 years, then as clinically indicated
- Rectal Cancer <sup>(78)</sup>:
  - Stage II, III: every 6-12 months for 5 years, then as clinically indicated
  - ~~Stage IV: every 3-6 months for 2 years, every 6-12 months for a total of 5 years then as clinically indicated~~
- Small Bowel Adenocarcinoma: every 6-12 months for 5 years then as clinically indicated <sup>(79)</sup>
- Small Cell Lung Cancer: every 2 months for the first year, every 3-4 months for years 2 and 3 then every 6 months during years 4 and 5 then annually <sup>(80)</sup> ~~then as clinically indicated~~
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma: every 3-6 months for 2 years, then every 6-12 months for 3 years, then annually as clinically indicated <sup>(58)</sup>
- Testicular cancer: every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year then annually for 2 years then as clinically indicated <sup>(81)</sup>
- ~~Urothelial Carcinoma of the Prostate, Primary Carcinoma of the Urethra): high risk patients only: every 3-6 months for 2 years then annually then as clinically indicated~~
- ~~Uveal Melanoma: every 6-12 months for 10 years then as clinically indicated~~
- Wilm's Tumor: every 3 months for 2 years then every 6 months for 2 years then as clinically indicated <sup>(82)</sup>

**NOTE:** ~~For any patient with stage IV cancer (any type) that is either in remission or on a treatment break, Abdomen and Pelvis CT is indicated every 3-6 months~~

When a cancer is not listed above, Abdomen and Pelvis CT is not routinely a part of surveillance for that cancer in an asymptomatic patient. There would need to be a sign or symptom of recurrence to consider Abdomen and Pelvis CT.

When the timeframe above for routine surveillance has elapsed, there would need to be a sign or symptom of recurrence to consider Abdomen and Pelvis CT.

## **PREOPERATIVE OR POSTOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT EVALUATION**

When not otherwise specified in the guideline (see [preop/postop urinary stone](#)):

Preoperative Evaluation:

- Imaging of the area requested is needed to develop a [For abdominal/pelvic surgical](#) [plan or procedure](#)

Postoperative Evaluation:

- ~~Follow-up of k~~known or suspected ~~post-operative~~ complications
- ~~A clinical reason is provided how imaging may change management~~
- ~~A follow-up study to help evaluate a patient's progress after treatment, procedure, intervention, or surgery. Documentation requires a medical reason that clearly indicates why additional imaging is needed~~

**NOTE:** This section applies only within the first few months following surgery

## **FURTHER EVALUATION OF INDETERMINATE FINDINGS ON PRIOR IMAGING**

Unless follow-up is otherwise specified within the guideline:

- For initial evaluation of an inconclusive finding on a prior imaging report that requires further clarification
- One follow-up exam of a prior indeterminate MR/CT finding to ensure no suspicious interval change has occurred. (No further surveillance unless specified as highly suspicious or change was found on last follow-up exam)

## **IMAGING IN KNOWN GENETIC CONDITIONS SYNDROMES AND RARE DISEASES**

- [BHDS \(Birt-Hogg-Dube\): Annually starting at age 20 \(or earlier with family history of renal tumors diagnosed before age 30](#) <sup>(77,83)</sup>
- [FAP \(Familial Adenomatous Polyposis\): Annually screening of abdomen and pelvis with MRI or CT for one or more of the following: personal history of desmoid tumor, family history of desmoid tumor or abdominal symptoms suggestive of desmoid tumor](#) <sup>(84)</sup>

- MEN1 (Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type 1): annually ~~if MRI is contraindicated or cannot be performed~~ starting at age 9 <sup>(85,86)</sup>
- ~~PGL/PCC (Hereditary Paraganglioma/Pheochromocytoma syndromes/SDHx mutations) every 2-3 years IF whole body MRI (unlisted MRI CPT 76498) is not available AND CI to MRI exists~~ <sup>(54)</sup>
- STK11 (Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome): Annually starting at age 8 <sup>(87)</sup>
- William's Syndrome: Abnormal vascular exam or imaging findings (such as concern for renal artery stenosis, diminished pulses, bruits or signs of diffuse thoracic aortic stenosis) <sup>(88)</sup> ~~AND acute abdominal pain~~
- Vascular Ehlers-Danlos (vEDS) ~~AND acute abdominal pain~~ <sup>(89)</sup>
- For other syndromes and rare diseases not otherwise addressed in the guideline, coverage is based on a case-by-case basis using societal guidance
- **NOTE:** ~~For syndromes for which imaging starts in the pediatric age group, MRI preferred~~

## **Combination Studies for Known Genetic Conditions**

**NOTE:** When medical necessity is met for an individual study AND conscious sedation is required (such as for young pediatric patients or patients with significant developmental delay), the entire combination is indicated.

### **Neck/Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis CT**

- Hereditary PGL/PCC Syndromes (including SDHx mutations): Every 2 years (including at diagnosis) AND MRI is contraindicated or cannot be performed <sup>(77,90)</sup>

## **OTHER COMBINATION STUDIES WITH ABDOMEN PELVIS CT**

**NOTE:** When medical necessity is met for an individual study AND conscious sedation is required (such as for young pediatric patients or patients with significant developmental delay), the entire combination is indicated.

### **Abdomen and Pelvis CTA ~~and~~ Abdomen and Pelvis CT ~~(or MRI)~~**

- When needed for clarification of vascular ~~invasion~~ involvement from tumor (including suspected renal vein thrombosis)

### **Chest/Abdomen and Pelvis CT**

- As numerous disease processes, including but not limited to malignancy, may affect the chest, abdomen and pelvis, this combination is indicated when the guideline criteria for **BOTH** Chest CT and Abdomen and Pelvis CT have been met.

- Documentation of concern for malignancy (such as lymphoma) and any **ONE** of the following B symptoms:
  - Fevers > 100° F
  - Drenching night sweats
  - Unexplained weight loss of > 10% body weight

## Chest/Abdomen and Pelvis CT ~~/and~~ PET

- CT of the original sites of disease is indicated **in addition to PET** while on active treatment every 2-3 cycles of chemo or immunotherapy for the following: Hodgkin Lymphoma, Pediatric Aggressive Mature B-Cell Lymphomas, Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma

## Sinus/Chest/Abdomen and Pelvis CT ~~/and~~ Brain MRI

- Prior to all types of Bone Marrow Transplantation

## Combination Studies for Malignancy for Initial Staging or Restaging

Unless otherwise specified in this guideline, indication for combination studies for malignancy for initial staging or restaging:

- Concurrent studies to include CT or MRI of any of the following areas as appropriate depending on the cancer: Abdomen, Brain, Chest, Neck, Pelvis, Cervical Spine, Thoracic Spine or Lumbar Spine.

## CODING AND STANDARDS

### Coding

### CPT Codes

74176, 74177, 74178, +0722T

### Applicable Lines of Business

☒	CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program)
☒	Commercial
☒	Exchange/Marketplace

☒	Medicaid
<del>☒</del> ☐	Medicare Advantage

## BACKGROUND

### ~~Cancer Imaging~~

#### ~~Bladder Cancer~~

~~Bladder cancer high risk is defined as high grade (Grade 3) tumor AND any one of the following: associated CIS, T1, tumor > 3 cm or multifocal, BCG refractory (unresponsive to BCG), variant histology (micropapillary, plasmacytoid, small cell), presence of lymphovascular invasion, or prostatic urethral invasion.~~

### ~~Fever of Unknown Origin~~

~~Initial work up prior to CT would include a comprehensive history, repeated physical exam, complete blood count with differential, three sets of blood cultures, chest x ray, complete metabolic panel, urinalysis, ESR, ANA, RA, CMV IgM antibodies, virus detection in blood, heterophile antibody test, tuberculin test, and HIV antibody test. Lastly, with a negative CXR, only when initial workup and abdomen/pelvis CT/MR fail to identify the cause for fever can Chest CT be approved. If CXR suggests a malignancy and/or source of fever, then Chest CT would be approved.~~

## Paraneoplastic Syndromes

Suspected paraneoplastic syndromes with no established cancer diagnosis: laboratory evaluation and imaging.

The laboratory evaluation for paraneoplastic syndrome is complex. If the appropriate lab test results are suspicious for malignancy, imaging is indicated.

For SIADH (hyponatremia + increased urine osmolality), there is a high association with small cell lung cancer, therefore imaging typically starts with chest CT. If other symptoms suggest a different diagnosis other than small cell lung cancer, different imaging studies may be reasonable.

For hypercalcemia (high serum calcium, low-normal PTH, high PTHrP) it is reasonable to start with bone imaging followed by a more directed evaluation such as mammogram, chest, abdomen, and pelvis imaging as appropriate.

For Cushing syndrome (hypokalemia, normal-high midnight serum ACTH NOT suppressed with dexamethasone) abdominal and chest imaging is reasonable. If dexamethasone suppression test DOES suppress ACTH, pituitary MRI is reasonable.

For hypoglycemia, labs drawn during a period of hypoglycemia (glucose < 55, typically a 72 hour fast) (insulin level, C-peptide, and IGF-2:IGF-1 ratio) should be done to evaluate for an insulinoma. An elevated insulin level, elevated C-peptide and/or normal IGF-2:IGF-1 ratio

warrant CT or MRI abdomen to look for insulinoma. A low insulin, low C-peptide and/or elevated IGF-2:IGF-1 ratio warrant chest and abdominal imaging.

When a paraneoplastic neurologic syndrome is suspected, nuclear and cytoplasmic antibody panels are often ordered to further identify specific tumor types. Results are needed prior to imaging. Because these tests are highly specific, if an antibody highly associated with a specific cancer is positive, then further imaging for that cancer is reasonable. For example, anti-Hu has a high association with SCLC and chest CT would be reasonable. Anti-MA2 has a high association with testicular cancer and testicular ultrasound would be a reasonable next step.

## Weight Loss

~~Unintentional weight loss is considered clinically significant if the amount of weight lost over 12 months is  $\geq 5\%$ . Older age and higher percentage of weight loss correlates with higher likelihood of malignancy. A targeted evaluation is recommended when there are signs or symptoms suggestive of a specific source. For example, when there is clinically significant weight loss with abdominal pain that prompts an evaluation for an abdominal source of the weight loss; CXR and labs such as TSH would not be needed prior to abdominal imaging. Conversely a smoker with a cough and weight loss would not start with abdominal imaging, a chest x-ray (CXR) would be the first test to start with. When there is no suspected diagnosis, initial evaluation includes CXR, age appropriate cancer screening (such as colonoscopy and mammography) and labs (including CBC, CMP, HbA1C, TSH, stool hemoccult, ESR/CRP, HIV, Hepatitis C). If this initial evaluation fails to identify a cause of weight loss, then the patient is monitored and if progressive weight loss is seen on subsequent visits/weights, then CT Abdomen/Pelvis is reasonable (MRI if there is a contraindication to CT such as contrast allergy or impaired renal function). Lastly, with a negative CXR, only when initial workup and abdomen/pelvis CT/MR fail to identify the cause for weight loss can Chest CT be approved. If CXR suggests a malignancy and/or source of weight loss, then Chest CT would be approved.~~

## Contraindications and Preferred Studies

- Contraindications and reasons why a CT/CTA cannot be performed may include: impaired renal function, significant allergy to IV contrast, pregnancy (depending on trimester)
- Contraindications and reasons why an MRI/MRA cannot be performed may include: impaired renal function, claustrophobia, non-MRI compatible devices (such as non-compatible defibrillator or pacemaker), metallic fragments in a high-risk location, patient exceeds weight limit/dimensions of MRI machine

## SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

### Imaging of acute pelvic pain <sup>(1)</sup>

Study Design: This document is a review article discussing the imaging of acute pelvic pain.

Target Population: Patients of all age groups presenting with acute pelvic pain.

Key Factors: The article highlights the differential diagnosis of acute pelvic pain, including gynecologic and non-gynecologic causes. It emphasizes the use of ultrasonography, CT, and

MRI for fast and accurate diagnosis. The document also discusses specific conditions such as ovarian cyst rupture, pelvic inflammatory disease, ovarian torsion, myoma degeneration, and more.

#### **ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Crohn Disease** <sup>(4)</sup>

**Study Design:** This document is part of the ACR Appropriateness Criteria, focusing on Crohn disease.

**Target Population:** Patients with suspected or known Crohn disease.

**Key Factors:** The guideline covers three common clinical scenarios: initial evaluation of Crohn disease, evaluation for anticipated exacerbation, and monitoring therapy. It rates the appropriateness of various imaging modalities, including CT enterography, MR enterography, and standard CT and MRI.

#### **ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Acute Nonlocalized Abdominal Pain** <sup>(6)</sup>

**Study Design:** This document is part of the American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria, which are evidence-based guidelines reviewed annually by a multidisciplinary expert panel.

**Target Population:** Adults with acute nonlocalized abdominal pain.

**Key Factors:** The guideline provides imaging recommendations for various clinical scenarios, including patients with fever, recent abdominal surgery, or neutropenia. It discusses the use of CT, MRI, ultrasound, and other imaging modalities to evaluate infectious or inflammatory processes, abdominal and pelvic neoplasms, and ischemic or vascular etiologies.

#### **Diagnostic imaging of acute abdominal pain in adults** <sup>(8)</sup>

**Study Design:** This document is a review article discussing the diagnostic imaging of acute abdominal pain in adults.

**Target Population:** Adults presenting with acute abdominal pain.

**Key Factors:** The article outlines the differential diagnosis based on the location of pain and provides imaging recommendations for various conditions such as abscess, acute pancreatitis, appendicitis, cholecystitis, Crohn disease, diverticulitis, ectopic pregnancy, and more. It emphasizes the use of ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for different scenarios.

#### **2022 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Aortic Disease: A Report of the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines** <sup>(30)</sup>

**Study Design:** This document is a clinical practice guideline developed by the American Heart Association (AHA) and American College of Cardiology (ACC) Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines.

**Target Population:** Patients with aortic disease across multiple clinical presentation subsets (asymptomatic, stable symptomatic, and acute aortic syndromes).

**Key Factors:** The guideline provides recommendations for diagnosis, genetic evaluation, family screening, medical therapy, endovascular and surgical treatment, and long-term surveillance of aortic disease. It emphasizes shared decision-making, institutional interventional volume, and multidisciplinary aortic team expertise.

## **ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE**

**Analysis** <sup>(1,4,6,8,30)</sup>:

In summary, CT is a valuable imaging modality for diagnosing acute abdominal and pelvic pain, with high diagnostic accuracy and the ability to visualize various pathologies. The use of contrast-enhanced CT further enhances its diagnostic capabilities. However, MRI is recommended in specific scenarios, particularly for young and pregnant patients, due to its lack of ionizing radiation and higher specificity for certain conditions. The choice of imaging modality should be based on the clinical presentation, patient demographics, and the suspected diagnosis.

### **Shared Findings**

- **Diagnostic Value of CT:** All articles emphasize the high diagnostic value of CT in evaluating acute abdominal and pelvic pain. CT is widely recognized for its ability to provide detailed images that help in diagnosing various conditions such as appendicitis, diverticulitis, and ovarian cysts. CT is particularly useful in cases where ultrasound findings are inconclusive or when urinary and gastrointestinal pathology is suspected.
- **Use of Contrast-Enhanced CT:** The use of contrast-enhanced CT is recommended for better visualization of structures and identification of pathologies. It helps in detecting inflammation, abscesses, and vascular issues. Contrast-enhanced CT is preferred for evaluating conditions like pelvic inflammatory disease, ovarian torsion, and renal abscesses.
- **Radiation Concerns:** There is a consensus on the need to minimize radiation exposure, especially in young and pregnant patients. MRI is suggested as an alternative imaging modality in such cases.

## **POLICY HISTORY**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<u>July 2025</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Added a Summary of Evidence and Analysis of Evidence</u></li> <li>● <u>Added note of medical necessity under combination studies for known genetic conditions – guideline alignment</u></li> </ul>
<u>June 2025</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>This guideline replaces Evolent Clinical Guideline 068 for</u></li> </ul>

Date	Summary
	<p><u>Abdomen Pelvis CT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Added in general information statement regarding guideline criteria development by reputable sources, standard of care, and best practices</u></li> <li>● <u>Hematuria, kidney stone and hernia sections revised</u></li> <li>● <u>Genetic syndromes and cancer imaging updated</u></li> <li>● <u>Applicable Line of Business adjusted – Medicare checked</u></li> <li>● <u>Updated language in the preoperative/postoperative section</u></li> <li>● <u>Segment added to combinations studies about if the required use of conscious sedation is needed the entire combination is indicated</u></li> <li>● <u>Background shortened and integrated into indications</u></li> <li>● <u>References updated</u></li> </ul>
June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Combination studies section adjusted to make uniform with all other guidelines</li> <li>● Added Genetic Syndromes and Tumors Section</li> <li>● Added contraindications and preferred studies section</li> <li>● Moved sections/indications throughout for better indications grouping</li> <li>● Updated references and background</li> </ul>
March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <del>Prostate cancer: updated guidance based on new NCCN criteria</del></li> <li>● <del>IBD: clarified indications</del></li> <li>● <del>Pancreas: specified guidance on pancreatitis</del></li> <li>● <del>Pyelonephritis: clarified risk factors and indications</del></li> <li>● <del>Aneurysm: specified guidance on initial imaging and screening intervals with emphasis on requiring ultrasound on initial imaging and indications for advanced imaging, specified guidance on post-repair imaging</del></li> <li>● <del>Hernia: clarified hernia types and indicated studies</del></li> <li>● <del>Transplant: added section</del></li> <li>● <del>Other: specified guidance for weight loss, paraneoplastic syndrome, edema; added indications for thrombocytopenia, gestational trophoblastic disease, cancer predisposition</del></li> </ul>

Date	Summary
	<p style="text-align: center;"><del>syndromes</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>● General Information moved to beginning of guideline with added statement on clinical indications not addressed in this guideline</del></li> <li><del>● Added statement regarding further evaluation of indeterminate findings on prior imaging</del></li> <li><del>● Aligned sections across body imaging guidelines</del></li> </ul>

## LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE

### Guideline Approval

#### Committee

Reviewed / Approved by Evolent Specialty Services Clinical Guideline Review Committee

#### Disclaimer

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