



Non-Chest Imaging in the Emergency Department during the COVID pandemic



CONFIRMED COVID
Tested Positive

SUSPECTED COVID
Meets current case definition of COVID

RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS, FEVER or INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS (ILI)
Does not meet current COVID case definitions but COVID not excluded

NO ILI SYMPTOMS
COVID not considered a realistic differential

NOTES
Radiology Room 3
Will be available for patients in whom COVID is considered likely to ensure proper cleaning as well as flow through other rooms

Avoid imaging unless it will make a significant change to management

Imaging generally plays no role in the diagnosis or risk stratification of COVID

If in doubt discuss with ED consultant, senior registrar or respiratory COVID consultant

Portable X-ray Machines
ILI machine
One will be dedicated to higher risk patients in Observation ward and the negative pressure rooms (aerosol generating procedure rooms - AGP) and will require high levels of cleaning

Resus machine
The other will be dedicated to resuscitation and low risk patients in the remainder of the department

ILI – influenza like illness
AGP – aerosol generating procedure rooms (negative pressure rooms)
NP – Nasal prongs
HM – Hudson mask

Minimise imaging where possible

X-rays

Routine procedure

CT scans

Routine procedure

X-ray

Consider delay until COVID screen is back
Can it be done with a portable machine?

YES

ILI dedicated portable X-ray in ED

NO

Transfer to radiology room 3
Notify nursing, HSAs and radiology staff to coordinate transfer

TRANSFER PROTOCOL
As for CT transfer (see next box)

CT scans

Must be requested by ED consultant or SR and approved by radiology who will review the plain films

Consider delay until COVID screen is back is not already positive

Notify nursing, HSAs and CT staff to coordinate transfer

TRANSFER PROTOCOL
Transfer team requires fresh PPE
Secure all points along route Inform target destination prior to transfer
If transferring with NP cover their face with a surgical mask or HM

X-rays

Can it be done with a portable machine?

YES

Use portable X-ray
If pt in ED Obs / AGP areas use ILI dedicated machine
If pt in rest of ED use resus machine

If portable not possible use Radiology Room 3

Droplet precautions

If transfer needed see **TRANSFER PROTOCOL** (next box)

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