

Date:	March 12, 2025
To:	All Health Care Providers
From:	NH Regional Diagnostic Services
Re:	DST medical imaging initiated diagnostic requests (MIIDR)

Several medical imaging processes have been standardized regionally and were approved by Northern Health Medical Advisory Committee in February 2025. They are documented in detail in the attached decision support tool.

These changes will allow for designated medical imaging staff to order the following investigations when deemed necessary by the Medical Imaging (MI) team:

- **X-ray for Pre-MR Orbit**
- **Pre-bloodwork for special procedures, interventional and contrast exams**
- **Post-procedure Pathology/Cytology/Laboratory**

Standard investigations will be ordered by the MI team unless otherwise specified by the ordering clinician. If the ordering clinician would like additional non-standard investigations these should be included with the procedure request

- **Post-chest drainages/lung biopsies – chest x-ray**

The results of these investigations will be sent to the clinician who originally ordered the Medical Imaging study / procedure. These changes will enhance safe patient care, streamline departmental efficiency, alleviate clinician workload, and ensure timely and accurate diagnostics.

The decision support tool also includes **Obstetrical ultrasound follow Up exams**. This is being implemented through a phased approach and will be announced as each MI department is ready to assume this responsibility. When implemented, MI departments will assume the responsibility of booking **only** incomplete Second Trimester fetal anatomy surveys. Any other follow up obstetrical US studies (such as follow up T1 studies performed too early for dating, or third trimester studies) will still be the responsibility of the patients care provider.

For further information please contact Sarah.harvie@northernhealth.ca, [Medical Lead, Medical Imaging](#) or Lisette.Vienneau@northernhealth.ca, Regional Director, Diagnostic Services.

References:

- Medical imaging initiated diagnostic requests (see appendix A)

Appendix A:



Decision Support Tool (DST)

NH-MI-GM-009

TITLE: Medical Imaging Initiated Diagnostic Requests

A printed copy of this document may not reflect the current, electronic version.

**DAP
APPLICABILITY:**

**RELATED DST or
CPS:** [NH-MI-GM-000 Guidance on Iodinated Contrast Associated
Acute Kidney Injury](#)
[DST - pre-Authorized Pre-MRI Orbit X-Rays](#)

DEFINITIONS: DAP - Diagnostic Accreditation Program
MI - Medical Imaging

**COMPETENCY
REQUIREMENTS:**

PURPOSE

This Decision Support Tool provides the decision support, educational requirements, and competency requirements for specific Medical Imaging Initiated Diagnostic Requests (MIIDR). This DST has been endorsed by Northern Health Medical Advisory Committee (NHMAC) February 19, 2025.

Medical Imaging staff can enhance patient care, streamline departmental efficiency, alleviate clinician workload, and ensure timely and accurate diagnostics, while ensuring safe patient care through the implementation of standardized MIIDR for patient presenting to the Medical Imaging department.

- Medical Imaging designated staff will be responsible for ordering specific medical imaging and laboratory requests on behalf of the ordering clinician.
- MIIDR related requests are limited to pre-determined general baseline tests to support the medical imaging request. Any variation or additions to requisitions are made by an ordering clinician.

DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

Only designated Medical Imaging staff are authorized to complete a MIIDR. Each site will assign specific staff members who are authorized to complete these requests.

Site specific process must be established for follow-up of abnormal and critical diagnostic tests.

Designated MI staff will place orders for the **specified** tests and procedures on behalf of initial ordering clinician.

Ensure all orders are documented in the patient's medical record as per Medical Imaging and Laboratory department processes.

- **X-ray for Pre-MR Orbits:** As required, orders for x-rays of orbits prior to MRI's will be placed by designated MI staff on behalf of ordering clinicians.
- **Pre-Bloodwork for special procedures, interventional and contrast exams:** Bloodwork required for specific MI procedures and exams will be ordered in advance by designated staff, following the timing guidelines established.
- **Post-Procedure Pathology/Cytology/Laboratory:** Orders for pathology, cytology and laboratory tests post-procedures (done in MI) will be placed by designated MI staff on behalf of the clinician who originally requested the exam. All Laboratory requests from Medical Imaging will have an attached copy of the original Medical Imaging requisition.
- **Ultrasound Obstetrical Follow-Up Exams:** Required follow-up obstetrical ultrasound exams will be scheduled and ordered by designated MI staff.
- **Post-Chest Drainages/Lung Biopsies – Chest X-ray:** As required: Chest x-rays will be performed as needed after chest drainages or lung biopsies. These chest x-rays will be ordered by the designated MI staff on behalf of the clinician who originally requested the procedure. This process ensures that the necessary post-procedure care is provided in a timely manner.

REFERENCES

- [07_CPSBC - Position Statement Fetal Anatomy Ultrasound Assessments DAP](#)

KEYWORDS

Laboratory, orbits, obstetrical,

REVISION HISTORY

Initial Effective Date:	February 28, 2025		
Author Title:	Medical Imaging Practice Lead		
Revision History:	Effective Date:	Description of Changes:	Reviewed of Revised by:
	February 28, 2025	DST published	Regional Director, Diagnostic Services, Medical Imaging Practice Lead