



Rapid Access Clinic Physiotherapists Ordering of Diagnostic Imaging – Medical Directive

Medical Advisory Committee Approved: 23APR2019

Harmonized

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Authorizing Prescriber(s)

Privileged orthopaedic surgeons associated with the Rapid Access Clinic (RAC) at Lakeridge Health (LH)

Authorized to Whom

Registered physiotherapists who:

- Are rostered and in good standing with the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario
- Are currently employed within the RAC at LH and who have attained advanced skills in lower extremity joint assessments and arthroplasty pre-assessment processes
 - Required advanced skills are determined by the RAC orthopaedic surgeons
 - Advanced skill training includes, but is not limited to: clinical observation and practice hours with RAC orthopaedic surgeons, case study presentations with RAC orthopaedic surgeon leads, and independent study (e.g. readings)
- Have the knowledge, skills and judgement related to the selection of appropriate diagnostic imaging as determined by the delegating health professional

Co-implementers:

- Medical Radiation Technologists – Radiography (MRT(R)) employed at LH

Patient Description/Population

Patients 18 years of age and older with hip or knee osteoarthritis who have been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for knee or hip arthroplasty

Order and/or Procedure

The RAC physiotherapist will obtain a comprehensive health history, perform a focused physical assessment, and review radiological findings (if available) to determine whether an order for diagnostic imaging is required to support their comprehensive patient evaluation. If required, the RAC physiotherapist will determine the appropriate diagnostic imaging needed as per the indications outlined in [Table 1](#) of the Appendix and in accordance with LH policy and procedure(s).

As co-implementer, the MRT(R) providing care to a patient under this directive will consider the indications for imaging (refer to [Table 1](#)) and proceed with the imaging selected by the RAC physiotherapist, as the MRT(R) deems appropriate.

Document Sponsor/Owner Group: Surgical Program, Date Approved 25FEB2019

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After x-rays have been taken under this Medical Directive and have been reviewed by a radiologist, the RAC physiotherapist can review the images with the patient and/or Substitute Decision Maker (SDM). Should there be any unexpected abnormalities (other than mild, moderate or severe osteoarthritis) seen by the radiologist, the physiotherapist will engage a RAC orthopaedic surgeon to review the information with the patient and/or SDM.

Indications to the Implementation of the Directive

The RAC physiotherapist may implement this Medical Directive when all of the following have been met:

- The patient is 18 years of age or older with hip or knee osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for knee or hip arthroplasty
- The patient has knee or hip pain
- The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit)
- The patient or SDM has consented to the implementation of this investigation under a Medical Directive, for the purpose of assessment

Contraindications to the Implementation of the Directive

- The patient is pregnant or could be pregnant
- The patient or SDM has not consented to the implementation of this investigation under this Medical Directive
- The RAC physiotherapist does not have the necessary knowledge, skills, or judgement to perform the delegated act

Consent

The RAC physiotherapist will obtain consent from the patient and/or SDM before implementing this Medical Directive. The RAC physiotherapist shall not carry out any action within this Medical Directive if the patient or SDM refuses to consent.

Consent would include the physiotherapist being able to provide information and answer questions related to:

- Nature of the proposed investigation and reasoning as to why it will be done
- Risks and benefits of the proposed investigation
- Disclosure that the proposed investigation is under the scope of a Medical Directive
- Consequences of not undergoing the proposed investigation
- Alternative courses of treatment including their risks and benefits

Prior to any co-implementation of this Medical Directive, the MRT(R) will obtain consent from the patient to complete the imaging requested.

Documentation Requirements

In addition to standard documentation practices required by the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, the RAC physiotherapist implementing this Medical Directive must document in the patient's chart that the Medical Directive has been implemented. To demonstrate that the Medical Directive has been implemented the RAC physiotherapist must document details of the imaging ordered along with the name of the Medical Directive, the printed name of the implementer, the signature of the implementer including credentials, and the date.

For example:

AP bilateral knees in standing, lateral view right knee and skyline view right knee, as per RAC Physiotherapists Ordering of Diagnostic Imaging Medical Directive, P. Smith PT. *P Smith PT*
January 15, 2019

The MRT(R) (co-implementers) will document in the patient's health record as per their standard documentation practices.

Review/Evaluation Process

This Medical Directive will be reviewed every 2 years by the Surgical Program.

References

College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. (2016). *Controlled Acts and Restricted Activities Standard*. Retrieved from <https://www.collegept.org/rules-and-resources/controlled-acts-and-restricted-activities>

Federation of Health Regulatory Colleges of Ontario. (2019). *An InterprofessionaI Guide on the Use of Orders, Directives and Delegation for Regulated Health Professionals in Ontario*. Retrieved from <http://www.regulatedhealthprofessions.on.ca/orders,-directives,-delegation.html>

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2018). *Radiography*. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/Radiation-EmittingProducts/RadiationEmittingProductsandProcedures/MedicalImaging/MedicalX-Rays/ucm175028.htm>



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This table must **not** be used independently apart from the Medical Directive

Order Table Form

Table 1		
Order	Indication	Contraindication
Anteroposterior (AP) view of bilateral knees in standing	<p>All must apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient is 18 years of age or older with knee osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for knee arthroplasty The patient has knee pain The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit) 	Patient is pregnant or could be pregnant
Lateral view of affected knee(s)	<p>All must apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient is 18 years of age or older with knee osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for knee arthroplasty The patient has knee pain The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit) 	Patient is pregnant or could be pregnant



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Table 1

Order	Indication	Contraindication
Skyline view of affected knee (s)	All must apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The patient is 18 years of age or older with knee osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for knee arthroplasty• The patient has knee pain• The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit)	Patient is pregnant or could be pregnant
AP view of pelvis	All must apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The patient is 18 years of age and older with hip osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for hip arthroplasty• The patient has hip pain• The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit)	Patient is pregnant or could be pregnant



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Table 1

Order	Indication	Contraindication
AP view of affected hip(s)	All must apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The patient is 18 years of age and older with hip osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for hip arthroplasty• The patient has hip pain• The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit)	Patient is pregnant or could be pregnant
Lateral view of affected hip(s)	All must apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The patient is 18 years of age and older with hip osteoarthritis and has been referred to the LH RAC to evaluate the need for hip arthroplasty• The patient has hip pain• The patient does not have x-rays of the extremities to be examined or has inadequate x-rays of the extremities to be examined (e.g. incomplete views of the region of interest, correct views of the region of interest but imaging was taken more than 3 months prior to RAC visit)	Patient is pregnant or could be pregnant