

## **IV & ORAL CONTRAST USE IN TRAUMA PATIENTS**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- The radiologist reading the examination is the supervising physician for the examination (not the ordering clinician). Radiology policies supersede ordering clinician preferences. Any deviation from Radiology policies requires an ordering clinician to radiologist discussion.
- The reason for any deviation from the Radiology policies must be documented on the technologist worksheet.

### **IV CONTRAST**

- All trauma CTs of the abdomen, abdomen/pelvis or chest/abdomen/pelvis require IV contrast unless there is a contraindication:
  - Patients with renal dysfunction (follow GFR guidelines). IV contrast can be administered despite a low GFR if the ordering clinician determines the benefits outweigh the risks.
  - Patients with severe iodinated IV contrast allergy (unless premedication given).

### **ORAL CONTRAST**

- Oral contrast is typically not needed in trauma cases, however oral and/or rectal contrast can be given at the discretion of the ordering clinician if there is a history of penetrating trauma or there is clinical suspicion for bowel injury.