American College of Radiology  
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®  

Acute Respiratory Illness in Immunocompetent Patients

Variant 1: Acute respiratory illness in immunocompetent patients with negative physical examination, normal vital signs and no other risk factors. Initial imaging.

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**Variant 2:** Acute respiratory illnesses in immunocompetent patients with positive physical examination, abnormal vital signs, organic brain disease or other risk factors. Initial imaging.

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Variant 3: Acute respiratory illness in immunocompetent patients with positive physical examination, abnormal vital signs, organic brain disease, or other risk factors and negative or equivocal initial chest radiograph. Next Imaging Study.

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Variant 4: Acute respiratory illnesses in immunocompetent patients with pneumonia complicated by suspected parapneumonic effusion or abscess on initial chest radiograph. Next Imaging study.

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**US chest**

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**References**

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### CT chest without and with IV contrast

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<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Appropriateness Category</th>
<th>SOE</th>
<th>Adults RRL</th>
<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Final Tabulations</th>
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<td>Expert Consensus</td>
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### References

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<th>Procedure</th>
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<td>CT chest without IV contrast</td>
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<td>US chest</td>
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**Variant 7:** Acute COPD exacerbation in immunocompetent patients, uncomplicated (no chest pain, fever, or leukocytosis, no history of coronary artery disease, or heart failure). Initial imaging.
Variant 8: Acute COPD exacerbation in immunocompetent patients with accompanying chest pain, fever, or leukocytosis, or a history of coronary artery disease, or heart failure. Initial imaging.

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<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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References

Study Quality

40 (2818109) 4

Study Quality

10 (25758182) 2

11 (22700780) 3
Please refer to the supporting documentation for a more complete discussion of the concepts and their definitions below.

Final Tabulations: A histogram of the number of panel members who rated the recommendation as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, …etc.)

Disagree: The variation of the individual ratings from the median rating indicates panel disagreement on the final recommendation.

References: Lists the references associated with the recommendation.

SQ: Study Quality (1, 2, 3, 4, Good M or Inadequate M) of the references listed.

RRL: Information on the Relative Radiation Level (RRL) designations can be found here.