

**American College of Radiology  
ACR Appropriateness Criteria®**

**Routine Chest Radiography**

**Variant 1: No clinical concern on basis of history or physical examination.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Radiography chest routine admission	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		3	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radiography chest routine preoperative	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		3	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radiography chest routine outpatient	Usually not appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		2	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Variant 2: Suspicion of acute or potentially unstable chronic cardiopulmonary disease by history or physical examination.**

Procedure	Appropriateness Category	SOE	Adults RRL	Peds RRL	Rating	Median	Final Tabulations								
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Radiography chest routine admission	Usually appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		9	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radiography chest routine outpatient	Usually appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Radiography chest routine preoperative	Usually appropriate		⊕ <0.1 mSv		8	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Variant 3: Increased risk, patient- or procedure-related (ie, advanced age [particularly >70 years], unreliable history and physical examination, high-risk surgery).**



## **Appendix Key**

A more complete discussion of the items presented below can be found by accessing the supporting documents at the designated hyperlinks.

**Appropriateness Category:** The panel's recommendation for a procedure based on the assessment of the risks and benefits of performing the procedure for the specified clinical scenario.

**SOE:** Strength of Evidence. The assessment of the amount and quality of evidence found in the peer reviewed medical literature for an appropriateness recommendation.

- **References:** The citation number and PMID for the reference(s) associated with the recommendation.
- **Study Quality:** The assessment of the quality of an individual reference based on the number of study quality elements described in the reference.

**RRL:** Relative Radiation Level. A population based assessment of the amount of radiation a typical patient may be exposed to during the specified procedure.

**Rating:** The final rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Median:** The median rating (1-9 scale) for the procedure as determined by the panel during rating rounds.

**Final tabulations:** A histogram showing the number of panel members who rated the procedure as noted in the column heading (ie, 1, 2, 3, etc.).

Additional supporting documents about the AC methodology and processes can be found at [www.acr.org/ac](http://www.acr.org/ac).