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

### Sepsis

**Variant 1:** Suspected or confirmed sepsis. Cough or dyspnea or chest pain. Initial imaging.

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<th>SOE</th>
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<th>Peds RRL</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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- 8 (21215552)
- 6 (32971451)
- 7 (25468363)
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**Variant 3:** Suspected or confirmed sepsis. Acute abdominal pain. Initial imaging.

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Variant 4: Suspected or confirmed sepsis. No specific symptoms suggestive of origin, or symptoms cannot be assessed. Initial imaging.
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### CT chest without and with IV contrast
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 1-10 mSv
  - 3-10 mSv [ped]
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
  - 11
  - 3
  - 2
  - 3
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 1
  - 1
- **Ped RRL**
  - 17
  - 2
  - 2
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0

### Fluoroscopy contrast enema
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 1-10 mSv
  - 3-10 mSv [ped]
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
  - 17
  - 2
  - 1
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
- **Ped RRL**
  - 17
  - 2
  - 1
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0

### Fluoroscopy upper GI series with small bowel follow-through
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 1-10 mSv
  - 3-10 mSv [ped]
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
  - 17
  - 2
  - 1
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
- **Ped RRL**
  - 17
  - 2
  - 1
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0

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- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 0 mSv
  - 0 mSv [ped]
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
  - 16
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  - 0
  - 2
  - 0
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
- **Ped RRL**
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  - 2
  - 0
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0

### MRI chest without and with IV contrast
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
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  - 0 mSv [ped]
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
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- **Ped RRL**
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  - 3
  - 0
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  - 0
  - 1
  - 1
  - 0

### Nuclear medicine scan gallbladder
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 0.1-1 mSv
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
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  - 3
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  - 1
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
- **Ped RRL**
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  - 2
  - 3
  - 0
  - 1
  - 1
  - 0
  - 0

### FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 10-30 mSv
  - 3-10 mSv [ped]
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
  - 15
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  - 1
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0

### WBC scan abdomen and pelvis
- **Usually not appropriate**
- **Expert Consensus**
  - 10-30 mSv
- **SOE**
- **Adults RRL**
  - 15
  - 1
  - 3
  - 2
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
- **Ped RRL**
  - 15
  - 1
  - 3
  - 2
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0
  - 0

**Variant 5:** Suspected or confirmed sepsis. No specific symptoms suggestive of origin, or symptoms cannot be assessed. Normal or equivocal or nonspecific chest radiograph. Next imaging study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast</td>
<td>Usually appropriate</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>1-10 mSv</td>
<td>3-10 mSv [ped]</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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### References

<table>
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<tr>
<td>15 (26754121)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 (11307365)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT chest with IV contrast</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT chest without IV contrast</td>
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<td>CT abdomen and pelvis without IV contrast</td>
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<td>CT chest abdomen pelvis with IV contrast</td>
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<td>CT chest abdomen pelvis without IV contrast</td>
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<td>Procedure</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MRI abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
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<td>MRI chest without IV contrast</td>
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<td>FDG-PET/CT skull base to mid-thigh</td>
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<td>WBC scan abdomen and pelvis</td>
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<td>Procedure</td>
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<td>CT abdomen and pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
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<td>CT chest abdomen pelvis without and with IV contrast</td>
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<td>Fluoroscopy contrast enema</td>
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<td>Fluoroscopy upper GI series with small bowel follow-through</td>
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<td>Nuclear medicine scan gallbladder</td>
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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).