

**Guiding Principles:**

1. Requesting general radiography studies allows for:
  - a. Increased efficiency in the delivery of primary health care to Nova Scotians.
  - b. Effective and efficient referral or clinical management of neuromusculoskeletal care with minimal delays to necessary patient care.
  - c. The ability of regulated health care providers to function within their scope of practice in Nova Scotia as part of health care teams to relieve pressure on existing resources.
2. The NSH/IWK and NSCC acknowledge that Personal Health Information can only be shared in accordance with applicable laws, including but not limited to Personal Health Information Act (Nova Scotia).
3. The NSH/IWK and NSCC may exchange confidential information to facilitate collaboration and patient care standards. Except as permitted, with consent or as required under applicable laws, such confidential information may not be disclosed or permitted to be disclosed to a third party.

**Requirements for Diagnostic Imaging referral privileges:**

1. The referring chiropractor must be a member in good standing registered to practice with the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors.
2. The Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors shall ensure the list of registrants is available and updated and ensure Information Management Information Technology (IMIT) has a current list of all registered Chiropractors using the prescribed form.
3. The Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors will include in its existing Peer Review process an additional review of all registrant’s radiology referral records to facilitate compliance with all regulations, standards and policies related to radiology referral.
4. The Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors may initiate a review of any registrant’s radiology referral records for the purposes of random audit or where questions of appropriate use may arise.

5. All registrants shall ensure that they use current knowledge and best practices in accordance with all legislation, regulations, standards of practice, guidelines and policies related to the evidence-based practice of radiology.
6. All registered chiropractors will comply with continuing competency programs related to diagnostic imaging as determined by the Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors.
7. The Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors, under the existing Chiropractic Act and Regulations, has provision for investigation of any complaint related to appropriateness of care for Nova Scotians. Any concerns or NSH, the IWK, the NSCC, or any patient related to DI or any other component of clinical care will be investigated fully under these processes as a regulated health care profession. Any chiropractor who is found not in compliance with the applicable regulations, standards and policies will have these rights to request radiology studies suspended and/or terminated.

## **Procedure:**

1. **The Chiropractor** is responsible to:
  - a. Perform a history and examination of the patient per current Standards of Practice.
  - b. Consider the benefits, limitations, contraindications and risks in determining whether the radiograph is required to reach an appropriate diagnosis, clinical impression and/or plan of care.
  - c. Take all reasonable steps to ensure no unnecessary duplication in the general radiography study within Nova Scotia Health/IWK.
  - d. Complete and sign a radiology requisition (APPENDIX A) as provided by NSH/IWK and include the following information:
    - i. General Radiography studies required
    - ii. Relevant clinical background
    - iii. Name and phone number/fax number of the requesting Chiropractor to ensure timely communication of results
    - iv. Name and phone/pager number of the patient's MRHCP (most responsible health care provider, e.g. family doctor, nurse practitioner).(if applicable)
  - e. Communicate effectively to the patient the reason and process for ordering the radiograph to allow the patient to make an informed and voluntary decision regarding the radiographic studies requested.
  - f. Provide the patient with the requisition and instructions on booking process: <https://booking.nshealth.ca> or can call 902-473-7771 or toll-free at 1-833-952-2782, Monday to Friday, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. to schedule an appointment.
  - g. Ensure that all records including radiology requests and fax results for all patients are received and stored in a private manner that meets all privacy requirements and are part of the patient record.
2. **DI staff** is responsible for sending the general radiography studies report to:
  - a. The referring chiropractor via fax or electronic transfer.
  - b. The primary physician by fax or electronic transfer.

3. **The Chiropractor** is responsible to communicate general radiography study findings that are within their scope of practice to the patient.
4. For findings that are not within scope of practice and/or require follow up, **the Chiropractor** is responsible to direct the patient as follows:
  - a. To their primary physician/MRHCP for further medical care.
  - b. If the patient does not have a primary physician/MRHCP:
    - i. In the case of a non-critical result, to a walk-in clinic and including a note indicating the concern and referencing the general radiographic studies report.
    - ii. For a critical result, direct the patient to an emergency department and include a note indicating the concern and referencing the general radiography studies report (as per Critical and Discrepant Results Reporting Guidelines).
5. **The Chiropractor** shall recognize and accept responsibility for the impact of conducting and ordering radiographic studies on the overall costs and sustainability of the health care system, including ensuring clinical necessity for all studies requested and that the results cannot be obtained from another source. The list of approved diagnostic imaging studies is attached as APPENDIX B.
6. **Nova Scotia College of Chiropractors** is responsible to:
  - a. Provide and maintain a current list of registered chiropractors and submit to IMIT as the register changes.
  - b. Ensure all registered chiropractors have required Professional Liability and Comprehensive General Liability as per The Chiropractic Act and Regulations.
  - c. Review the referral practices of chiropractors in Nova Scotia regularly as part of the Peer Review process.
  - d. Educate and review with members any updated legislation, regulations, standards and policies applicable to the referral of patients for general radiography studies in Nova Scotia.

APPENDIX A: Diagnostic Imaging Consultation Request form

<https://chiropractors.ns.ca/document/7268/Diagnostic%20Imaging%20Consultation%20Request.pdf>

APPENDIX B: List of approved general radiology requests

<b>BODY PART</b>	<b>APPROVED IMAGING</b>
Finger	AP/PA, Lateral
Hand	AP/PA, Oblique, Lateral
Wrist	AP/PA, Oblique, Lateral
Forearm	AP/PA, Lateral
Elbow	AP/PA, Lateral
Humerus	AP/PA, Lateral
Shoulder	AP, Y view, axial
Acromioclavicular joint	AP with and without weights
Clavicle	AP, axial
Scapula	AP, Y view
Toes	AP/PA, Oblique, Lateral Fibula
Foot	AP/PA, Oblique, Lateral
Calcaneus	Axial, Lateral
Ankle	AP/PA, Oblique, Lateral
Tibia/Fibula	AP, Lateral
Knee	AP (both knees), Lateral (affected) Skyline – specifically request as clinically relevant For suspected knee OA, weight bearing required
Femur	AP, Lateral *FROG LEG
Hip	AP (both hips), Lateral (affected)
Pelvis	AP
Cervical Spine	AP, Odontoid, Lateral, both obliques if part of standard routine Flexion/Extension – specifically request as clinically relevant
Thoracic Spine	AP, Lateral, Swimmer’s view
Lumbar Spine	AP, Lateral, L5-S1 spot lateral, both obliques
Sacrum	AP, Lateral
Coccyx	Lateral
Sacroiliac Joint	AP, both obliques
Chest (for rib views)	PA, Oblique

**Other images will be approved where applicable to the Chiropractic Scope of Practice with rationale appropriately documented. E.G. Scoliosis assessment for a child patient.**