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Search details
Nursing staff requesting x – rays (to update previous protocol).

Resources searched
NHS Evidence; TRIP Database; Cochrane Library; BNI; CINAHL; HMIC; MEDLINE; Google Scholar

Database search terms: x ray, imaging, request, nurse*

Google search string: x ray request, nurse*

Summary
Published research 2004 to date

Guidelines
Clinical imaging requests from non-medically qualified professionals RCN 2008.

Evidence-based reviews
None found

Published research
1. Nurse-initiated x-rays: a leap forward for children and nurses.
   Author(s): Puckridge D, Higgins M, Hutton A
   Citation: Neonatal, Paediatric & Child Health Nursing, 01 March 2010, vol./is.
Abstract: Paediatric emergency nurses can accurately and suitably order x-rays for paediatric patients with isolated extremity injuries. Secondary aims of this study were to decrease patient emergency department (ED) time and improve satisfaction for patients, parents, nursing and medical staff. This initiative has many benefits, including decreased patient ED waiting time as well as improving satisfaction for patients, parents and nursing staff. Data was obtained through audits and surveys. The study was conducted in a major Australian metropolitan hospital. Audit data was extracted from the PED's information system (EDIS) and radiology reporting systems that are generated by way of the x-ray request forms and completed by nurses. Further information was obtained from two surveys: one completed by emergency nursing staff, which provided information on parents’ views about the x-ray process. The other survey was completed by the PED’s doctors. Nurse-initiated x-rays (NIXR) audit forms were available for 147 presentations during the study period of April to June 2000. Fractures were detected in 74 (51%) of the x-rays ordered by nurses. This number compared favourably with doctors’ x-rays over the same period, where 56% of the x-rays ordered detected fractures. The study has demonstrated that nursing staff can accurately and effectively order NIXR for children with isolated limb injuries in our ED. The study also showed that as a direct result of NIXR, waiting time was reduced for children with these injuries.

Source: CINAHL

Full Text:
Available in fulltext at EBSCOhost
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2. Triage nurse X-ray protocols for hand and wrist injuries.
Author(s): Hunter D
Citation: Emergency Nurse, 01 February 2010, vol./is. 17/9(20-24), 13545752
Publication Date: 01 February 2010
Abstract: David Hunter sets out how a protocol and training programme in an emergency department has allowed triage nurses to request X-rays of patients with hand and wrist injuries.

Source: CINAHL

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3. Triage nurse X-ray protocols for hand and wrist injuries.
Author(s): Hunter, D
Citation: Emergency Nurse, February 2010, vol./is. 17/9(20-4), 1354-5752 (2010 Feb)
Publication Date: February 2010
Abstract: Development of a protocol and training programme at an emergency department in Scotland which allows triage nurses to assess hand and wrist injuries, request x-rays and improve patients’ journeys through A&E. 20 refs.

Source: BNI

Full Text:
Available in fulltext at EBSCOhost
Available in print at ULHT journal article requests. Click the link and complete the online form to obtain articles.
Available in print at Pilgrim Hospital Staff Library
4. New guidance on clinical imaging requests.
Author(s): Aston, J
Citation: Primary Health Care, February 2007, vol./is. 17/1(12-3), 0264-5033 (2007 Feb)
Publication Date: February 2007
Abstract: Development of guidelines from the RCN on requesting clinical images, including x-rays, ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging, by nurse practitioners, nurses working in advanced clinical roles and other non-medically qualified health professionals. Barriers to imaging requests being made by appropriately qualified nurses and paramedical staff are discussed, and the development of the multidisciplinary guidelines is described. 1 ref.
Source: BNI
Full Text:
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Available in fulltext at ULHT journal article requests. Click the link and complete the online form to obtain articles.

5. Requesting X-rays made easier by new guidance.
Author(s): Odell M
Citation: Nursing in Critical Care, 01 January 2007, vol./is. 12/1(54-54), 13621017
Publication Date: 01 January 2007
Source: CINAHL
Full Text:
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Available in print at a ULHT library. Please use our journal article request service to obtain articles.

6. A nurse-initiated ED X-ray program.
Author(s): Bowman, K, Gerdtz, M
Citation: Australian Nursing J, December 2006, vol./is. 14/6(29), 1320-3185 (2006 Dec/Jan)
Publication Date: December 2006
Abstract: Development, content and evaluation of an education programme aimed at expanding the role of senior emergency nurses, enabling them to request limb x-rays. 1 ref.
Source: BNI
Full Text:
Available in fulltext at EBSCOhost
Available in fulltext at ULHT journal article requests. Click the link and complete the online form to obtain articles.

7. The accountability of emergency nurse practitioners.
Author(s): Iankova, A
Citation: Emergency Nurse, October 2006, vol./is. 14/6(20-5), 1354-5752 (2006 Oct)
Publication Date: October 2006
Abstract: Discussion of the accountability of nurses taking on the role of emergency nurse practitioner, focusing especially on the legal, professional and ethical issues of nurses requesting and interpreting x-rays. 74 refs.
Source: BNI
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The acute care nurse practitioner: Challenging existing boundaries of emergency nurses in the United Kingdom
T Norris… - Journal of clinical nursing, 2006 - Wiley Online Library
... Allerston J & Justham D (2000a) Nurse Practitioners and the Ottawa Ankle Rules: comparisons with medical staff in requesting X-rays for ankle-injured patients. Accident and Emergency Nursing 8, 110 – 115. ...

Literature review of studies on the effectiveness of nurses ability to order and interpret X-rays
... 8 J. Allerston and D. Justham, Nurse practitioners and the Ottawa Ankle Rules: comparisons with medical staff in requesting X-rays for ankle injured patients. Accid Emerg Nurs, 8 (2000), pp. 110–115. 9 M. Hardy and C. Barrett, Interpreting trauma radiographs. ...
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