Quantifying leg-length discrepancy (LLD) is an important step in the proper treatment planning for patients with pain in their back or lower extremities, compensatory gait or degenerative arthritis. Medical imaging that includes accurate leg length measurements can provide the answers to create a care plan.

Center for Diagnostic Imaging (CDI) offers patients a convenient outpatient setting for completing a weight-bearing anteroposterior (AP) radiograph, an imaging modality specialized for measuring LLD.

### LLD Imaging and Measurement Technique:

1. The patient stands on a clear plastic device with radio-opaque rulers adjacent to their legs.
2. CDI’s technologist takes radiographs exactly centered at the hips, then knees, then ankles.
3. From these images, we measure the exact heights of each ankle, knee, hip and top of the iliac crest.
4. The total length of each lower extremity is then calculated by adding the respective lengths of the ankle, foreleg and femur.
5. CDI’s radiologist interprets the exam and creates a final report listing the various measurements and discussing any bony abnormalities that have contributed to the differences.