

GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

PURPOSE

- To standardize and optimize the use of IV and oral contrast in patients undergoing CT, MR, fluoroscopic and other radiographic imaging examination based on current guidelines.

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- Within the Radiology department the management and administration of IV and oral contrast is set forth by departmental policies and procedures. These policies and procedures have been approved by Radiology, Pharmacy and the Medical Executive Committees and are to be followed by radiologists, technologists, nurses and other imaging staff when administering IV and oral contrast to patients.
- All IV and oral contrasts are considered medications.
- IV contrast will only be administered by a technologist, radiologist or other authorized physician.
- The technologist will use two patient identifiers to verify the patient's identity comparing the information on the imaging requisition to the patient's information (either verbally stated by the patient or on his/her armband) prior to administering contrast.
- The technologist, radiologist or nurse will interview patients who are to receive IV and oral contrast to identify pertinent information regarding risk factors for allergic-like and adverse reactions to contrast administration (see section on allergies).
- The technologist will record female patients' pregnancy and lactation status on the technologist worksheet.
- The technologist will record any patient refusal or inability to tolerate IV or oral contrast on the technologist worksheet.
- The technologist will not remove the patient's IV access until after the examination is complete, and the patient is ready to leave the facility. Do not remove the IV access immediately after administering CT or MR IV contrast. This is to ensure adequate IV access in the event of a contrast reaction.
- If IV contrast is administered, the technologist will place an order for IV contrast into the EMR signed back to the radiologist assigned to that location or to the on-call radiologist. Document the dose of IV contrast dose administered in the patient's EMR. This applies to outpatients, inpatients and ER patients at all sites.
- If oral contrast is administered, the technologist will place an order for oral contrast into the EMR signed back to the radiologist assigned to that location or to the on-call radiologist (unless already ordered from the ER). Document the volume of oral contrast in the patient's EMR. This applies to outpatients, inpatients and ER patients at all sites.
- The technologist will encourage patients receiving iodinated IV contrast to ensure adequate oral hydration following the examination.

- The technologist is responsible for loading injectors, syringes or other devices with IV contrast.