

IV & ORAL CONTRAST USE IN INPATIENTS & ER PATIENTS

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- The radiologist reading the examination is the supervising physician for the examination. Any deviation from Radiology policies requires an ordering clinician to radiologist discussion.
- The reason for any deviation from the Radiology policies must be documented on the technologist worksheet.

IV CONTRAST

- The use of IV contrast improves the sensitivity and specificity for the detection/evaluation of many pathologies, including but not limited to infectious, inflammatory, neoplastic, traumatic and vascular conditions and the assessment of complications related to many of these conditions.
- All inpatients and ER patients who undergo CT imaging of the abdomen, abdomen/pelvis or chest/abdomen/pelvis require iodinated IV contrast except:
 - When deemed not essential by the radiologist based on examination indication and patient history. Indications that typically do not require IV contrast include: renal or ureteral stones and retroperitoneal hemorrhage.
 - Patients with renal dysfunction (follow GFR guidelines).
 - Patients with iodinated IV contrast allergy (unless premedication given).

ORAL CONTRAST

- The following inpatients and ER patients who undergo CT imaging of the abdomen, abdomen/pelvis or chest/abdomen/pelvis require oral contrast:
 - All pediatric patients less than 18 years of age.
 - Adult patients with a BMI less than 22.
 - Patients with any type of abdominal or pelvis surgery in the past 30 days.
 - Patients with prior surgery involving the small bowel or prior gastric bypass.
 - Patients with a history of abdominal pain lasting more than 4 weeks.
 - Patients with a history of inflammatory bowel disease (i.e. Crohns or ulcerative colitis).
- The following are contraindications to oral contrast:
 - Patients with oral contrast allergy (unless premedication given).
 - Patients with severe vomiting or high-risk for aspiration.
- Some surgeons (particularly at Clay) prefer oral contrast be administered when bowel obstruction is a consideration.