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I. Policy

To provide guidelines for the use of intravenous or oral, iodinated and gadolinium based contrast media, as well as the proper response of Radiology staff in the event of a contrast media event.

See policy I.21 for use of IV contrast on breast feeding patients.
See policy II.6 for Emergency Equipment and Contrast Reaction Kits

II. Responsibility

1. IV and oral contrast media agents are considered medications according to the Joint Commission and, therefore, all adherences to the Medication Management Standards and all applicable YNHH drug use policies apply.

2. The patient’s physician, PA, or APRN is responsible to order radiology exams, including those that require contrast media, either by written requisition or via computer order entry system. Inpatient and ED requests for contrast exams must include the patient’s pregnancy status and renal function as appropriate.

3. The radiologist has primary responsibility to review pertinent, available patient history, including eGFR levels, and the appropriateness of the request for contrast media, the dose, and the type of contrast administered prior to assigning imaging protocols.

4. Per YDR and DR administration, the responsibility to protocol routine CT exams is also extended to include Radiologist Assistants (RA) and pre-qualified CT technologists.

   In order for the technologist to protocol one of these exams, the clinical indication for the exam needs to be appropriate for the study that is ordered. For exams ordered with IV contrast, the patients’ eGFR should be $\geq 45$. If the eGFR is $< 45$, the exam should be referred to the radiologist to protocol. In all cases, the protocol selected by the technologist should match the ordered CT exam exactly. Any questions as to the appropriateness of the exam, body part to be imaged, or the use of contrast, should be referred to the radiologist to protocol. **eGFR results for in-patient and ER patients should be within 36 hours.** For out-patients, eGFR values are acceptable for up to 6 weeks before exam (the most recent Creatinine value should be used to compute the eGFR).

5. The Pharmacist will retrospectively review contrast orders.

6. All personnel involved in the administration of contrast media are responsible to be aware of the steps that can be taken to anticipate a contrast reaction in order to try to prevent it, or if one occurs, recognize it and take appropriate measures. Contrast reactions may be dealt with by technologists, nurses, RA, radiologists, code-teams or a combination of the above. See Addendum I.15A Recognition and Response to a Contrast Reaction.
III. Procedure Guidelines for IV Contrast

1. Intravenous contrast will be injected through an intravenous line previously established by the nurse or technologist. See DR Policy 1.17: Medication Administration by Technologists in Diagnostic Radiology.

2. Prior to the administration of IV contrast, the patient’s age and history including medications, allergies, sensitivity to drugs, and questions of renal impairment will be reviewed by the technologist in the patient’s medical record, or obtained using the appropriate outpatient questionnaire, and subsequently scanned or entered into the medical record.
   
   a. If no contraindications to contrast are noted, the technologist proceeds with IV contrast administration as per protocol identified by the radiologist.
   
   b. If contraindications are noted, the case is referred to the radiologist for further consideration.
   
   c. An IV line will stay in place during the examination, should IV drug therapy be necessary.
   
   d. A physician must be readily available during the contrast examination.
   
   e. A contrast reaction kit and emergency equipment (including a code cart, if a hospital site), must be readily available.

   See Policy II.6 – Emergency Equipment & Supplies

IV. Point of Care Testing

1. Point-of-Care eGFR testing will be performed by the technologist/technologist aid or nursing as required for Outpatients (and rarely for in-patients), at the time of appointment.

2. Please see page 3 for the proper procedure:
A. MRI Patients:
As directed by the Chief of MRI, Jeffrey Weinreb, MD.

- All outpatients 60 years of age and above who are receiving a gadolinium based MRI contrast agent will be screened for renal function by a Point of Care meter. This is a non-waived test and is inspected by the College of American Pathologists as part of the accreditation of the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

- Those outpatients who are below the age of 60 but have answered yes to contrast related questions on the MR safety screening form (diabetic, hypertensive, renal disease, liver disease) must also be screened with the Point of Care meter before the administration of contrast.

- MRI inpatients will have blood work drawn and the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) will be obtained from their charts. The meter will diagnose the quantitative measurement of creatinine in capillary, venous, and arterial whole blood and convert the creatinine value by means of standard algorithms into estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) in order to evaluate renal function. The eGFR will be recorded in separate dedicated log as well as on the patients’ safety sheet.

B. CT Scan Patients:

- Any outpatient that answers “Yes” to the contrast related questions on the CT Oral / IV Contrast Data Form or that are over the age of 60 will be given a Point-of-Care test to determine eGFR level.

- eGFR levels under 45 are referred to the radiologist.

C. Point of Care Meter:
Will be maintained by the MRI and CT Scan departments and a QA schedule will be strictly adhered to. Staff will be trained in the use of the meter during their orientation and reviewed for competency annuals. “Super users” will be assigned for training of staff members.
Pre-medication policy for prior allergic like reactions to contrast media
(Formerly Addendum 1.15B)

For Planned Administration of Contrast Agents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous reaction to allergens (eg shellfish, peanuts, medications etc):</th>
<th>Mild</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous reaction to <strong>same</strong> class of contrast agent going to be given:</th>
<th>Mild (Excluding hives/facial swelling/itching)</th>
<th>Moderate (Including hives/facial swelling/itching)</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Pre-medicate and use different agent</td>
<td>Do not give contrast*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous reaction to a <strong>different class</strong> of Contrast agent than type to be given.</th>
<th>Mild</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unless in the opinion of the responsible health care professional and supervising radiologist, the potential benefits outweigh the risks i.e. emergency situations. In these instances, specific indications and reason(s) for exception should be documented in the report.

- Premedication with steroids and Benadryl is now recommended only for patients who have had a reaction to contrast of a similar class (iodinated agents are one class, gadolinium based agents are separate class) to the one planned to be given.
- Prophylaxis for those with reactions to other allergens is no longer necessary.

This policy decision is based on the following information:
- Current estimated reaction risk in the general population is about 0.6% (Wang et al.)
- Only patients with a prior reaction to contrast are known to be at higher risk (3-11% reaction rate, with 2% break-through) (Mervak et al.Lasser et al).
- The rate of reaction for patients with prior anaphylaxis to substances other then contrast may be higher than the normal population, but this is not proven.
- The current standard of care in the United States is to premedicate patients with steroids and Benadryl to decrease risk of repeat contrast reaction in patients who have had a reaction in the past to a similar class contrast agent.

References:
Pre-Medication Regimen

**Adults:**
- 50mg Prednisone PO 13, 7 and 1 hour before the injection.
- 50mg Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) IV/PO within 1 hour of the injection.

*In an emergency setting an alternative faster (but less proven) regime is:*
- 200mg Hydrocortisone IV 4 hours before injection.
- 50mg Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) IV/PO within 1 hour of the injection.

**Pediatrics (For patients less than 50kg):**
- Prednisone 0.7 mg/kg (not to exceed 50mg) PO 13, 7 and 1 hour before the injection.
- Prednisolone 0.7mg/kg (not to exceed 50mg) PO 13, 7 and 1 hour before the injection
- Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) 1mg/kg IV/PO (not to exceed 50mg) within 1 hour of the injection.

*In an emergency setting an alternative faster (but less proven) regime is:*
- Hydrocortisone 1mg/kg (not to exceed 200mg) IV 4 hours before injection.
- Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) 1 mg/kg IV/PO (not to exceed 50mg) within 1 hour of the injection.
V. Documentation of Adverse Events

1. If a contrast event occurs, the radiology nurse or technologist involved must document the details within the patient medical record (Epic). It will be the technologist or nurse’s responsibility to ensure that the individuals involved have included the following details:
   - Contrast agent/dose administered
   - Reaction signs/symptoms
   - Patient management, including drugs administered
   - Patient outcome

2. Details concerning the administration of contrast and the adverse event must also be documented in the radiology report.

3. Nurses/Techs must also enter a report in Event Reporting System, but this must not preclude documentation in the RIS medical record.

4. At the radiologist’s discretion, the patient’s clinician will be notified verbally at the time of the event.
CT Contrast Reaction or urgent adverse patient event coverage*

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Location</th>
<th>Day Shift (8am-5pm)</th>
<th>Evenings and night (5pm-8am)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP2 (usually 7am-430pm)</td>
<td>Chest or Cardiac (S. Pavilion)</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilow (Open 7am-8pm)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro MR (Smilow)</td>
<td>Neuro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body CT (Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saint Raphael's (Open 24/7)</strong></td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YNHH Nuc med PET/CT (open till 7pm)</strong></td>
<td>Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>Neuro (Smilow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SRC Nuc Med PET/CT</strong></td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY - SUNDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Location</th>
<th>Day Shift (8am-noon)</th>
<th>Afternoon &amp; Nights (noon-8am)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP2</td>
<td>Chest if present. Otherwise ED</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilow (Open 8am-430 pm)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro MR (Smilow)</td>
<td>Neuro (Smilow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body CT (Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saint Raphael's (open 24/7)</strong></td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Non-urgent situations such as contrast extravasation, mild contrast side effects (nausea/vomiting), and falls will be handled by the supervising service during normal business hours.

**Contact Information**

- NEURO SMILOW-200-3181
- NEURO FITKIN-688-4305
- BODY SMILOW-200-5734
- BODY FITKIN-688-3171
- BREAST-200-5229
- PEDIATRICS-688-6184
- CHEST SP-688-8811
- CARDIAC - 688-3570
- SRC BODY-789-6092/3
- SRC MRI-789-4126
- ED YNHH-688-6180
- ED SRC-789-3929
MRI Contrast Reaction or urgent adverse patient event coverage (non-urgent situations such as contrast extravasation, mild contrast side effects (nausea/vomiting), and falls will be handled by the supervising service during normal business hours)

### MONDAY-FRIDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Location</th>
<th>Day Shift (8am-5pm)</th>
<th>Evenings and night (5pm-8am)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitkin (Open 7am to 11pm)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro (Fitkin)</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body MR (Fitkin)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilow 2 (Open 24/7)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro (Smilow)</td>
<td>Neuro (Smilow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body CT (Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilow 1 (Open 7am to 3pm)</td>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>Closed now. When open ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedi (Open 7am to 7pm)</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Raphael's (Open 24/7)</td>
<td>Chest (Tuesday/Wednesday)</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neuro (Monday/Friday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MSK (Thursday)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SATURDAY - SUNDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Location</th>
<th>Day Shift (8am-noon)</th>
<th>Afternoon &amp; Nights (noon-8am)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilow 2 (Open 24/7)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro (Smilow)</td>
<td>Neuro (Smilow) if present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body CT (Smilow)</td>
<td>Otherwise ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smilow 1 (7am to 12pm Sat only)</td>
<td>Breast (if present)</td>
<td>ED (7am-8am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>If breast not present</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>If neuro case, neuro</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Smilow</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>All other cases Body CT</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Smilow</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitkin (7:00am to 4pm Sat only)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro MR</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body CT (Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Raphael's (Open 24/7)</td>
<td>If neuro case, neuro MR</td>
<td>ED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Otherwise, body CT (Smilow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEURO SMILOW-200-3181</td>
<td>PEDIATRICS-688-6184</td>
<td>ED YNHH-688-6180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEURO FITKIN- 688-4305</td>
<td>BREAST-200-5229</td>
<td>ED SRC-789-3929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BODY SMILOW-200-5734</td>
<td>CARDIAC SP- 688-3570</td>
<td>BODY FITKIN-688-3171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRC MRI-789-4126</td>
<td>SRC BODY-789-6092/3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALGORITHYM FOR RECOGNITION AND RESPONSE TO CONTRAST REACTION
(Formerly Addendum I.15A)

MAJOR REACTIONS

BREATHING PROBLEMS OR SHOCK

a) Coughing, Choking
b) Difficulty Breathing
c) Wheezing / Stridor
d) Facial / Neck Swelling
e) Cyanosis / Severe Diaphoresis
f) Unresponsive/hypotensive

NOTIFY RADIOLOGIST AND NURSING

1. Assess air way and lungs
2. Check vital signs - place on monitor
3. Check ability to swallow, patient color, quality of voice

IF PROBLEM- Call CODE

Within Hospital: Call 155
(Code Blue = Adults)
(Code White = Pedi)

Outside New Haven: Call 9-911 (Local EMS)

MINOR REACTIONS

• Nausea, vomiting
• Cough
• Warmth
• Headache
• Dizziness
• Shaking
• Altered taste
• Itching
• Pallor
• Flushing
• Chills
• Sweats
• Nasal stuffiness
• Anxiety
If Asymptomatic

1. Comfort and reassure patient
2. Observe – continue or complete exam
3. If no further problem, can discharge.

If no relief or symptoms persist

1. Maintain and secure IV access
2. Notify radiologist
MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS FOR MAJOR ADVERSE EVENTS

ASSESS AIRWAY, HR, BP, SPO₂, AUSCULTATE HEART AND LUNGS, OBTAIN IV ACCESS, OXYGEN, MONITOR

**UNRESPONSIVE**
- CALL 155
  - PALPABLE PULSE? RESPIRATIONS?
    - YES
      - HYPOTENSIVE?
        - YES
          - SEE HYPOTENSIVE ALGORITHM
        - NO
          - CHECK FINGERSTICK GLUCOSE
          - HYPOTENSIVE?
            - YES
              - CHECK CHEST COMPRESSIONS: REFER TO ACLS ALGORITHM
            - NO
              - HYPOTENSIVE?
                - YES
                  - SEE FACS/NEONATAL EDema
                - NO
                  - CHECK FINGERSTICK GLUCOSE

**HYPOTENSIVE**
- ELEVATE LEGS, NO OXYGEN IN O 2 - 5 L/min, OXYGEN AS NEEDED, SECURE AIRWAY
- HEART RATE - NO O2 SUPPLY?
  - YES
    - Epinephrine 0.3mg 1:10,000 slow IV push over 1-3 minutes (can repeat up to 3 times)
    - PEDI DOSE 0.1mg/kg
  - NO
    - Albuterol Nebulizer

**WHEEZING/BRONCHOSPASM**
- OXYGEN AS NEEDED, ELEVATE HEAD OF BED
- ALBUTEROL NEBULIZER
- STILL WHEEZING OR NO RESPONSE TO NEBULIZER?
  - CALL 155

**FACS/LARYNGEAL EDema**
- OXYGEN AS NEEDED, ELEVATE HEAD OF BED
- CALL 155

**URTICARIA**
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) 25-50mg (IV/IM)
- PEDI DOSE 1mg/kg
- CALL 155

**USING THE EPIPEN**
1. Remove EpiPen from box
2. Pull blue safety release cap
3. Press orange tip FIRMLY against outer thigh until it ‘clicks’. Hold for 10 seconds
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radiology Tackle Box Contents</th>
<th>Adult Dosing</th>
<th>Pediatric Dosing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albuterol MDI INHALER 90 mcg/actuation</td>
<td>2 puffs (90 mcg/puff) for a total of 180 mcg - May repeat</td>
<td>2 puffs (90 mcg/puff) for a total of 180 mcg - May repeat up to 3 times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albuterol Nebulizer 0.083% solution</td>
<td>2.5 mg (3 mL) inhaled via a nebulizer over 5-15 minutes</td>
<td>2.5 mg (3 mL) inhaled via a nebulizer over 5-15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin 325 mg TABLET</td>
<td>325 mg PO</td>
<td>DO NOT USE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albuterol Nebulizer</td>
<td>2.5 mg (3 mL) inhaled via a nebulizer over 5-15 minutes</td>
<td>0.02 mg/kg IV (0.2 mL/kg of 0.1 mg/mL solution) - MINIMUM single dose = 0.1 mg - MAX single dose = 0.6 - 1 mg - MAX total dose = 1 mg for infants and children, 2 mg for adolescents - Follow with saline flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atropine 1 mg/10 mL SYRINGE</td>
<td>0.5 mg IV - Administer slowly, followed by saline flush - May repeat every 3 – 5 minutes up to 3 mg total</td>
<td>0.02 mg/kg IV (0.2 mL/kg of 0.1 mg/mL solution) - MINIMUM single dose = 0.1 mg - MAX single dose = 0.6 - 1 mg - MAX total dose = 1 mg for infants and children, 2 mg for adolescents - Follow with saline flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dextrose 50% 25g/50mL SYRINGE</td>
<td>25g IV - Administer over 2 min</td>
<td>0.5 g/kg/dose IV - Administer over 2 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphenhydramine 50 mg VIAL</td>
<td>25-50 mg IM or IV - Administer IV dose slowly over 1-2 min</td>
<td>1 mg/kg IM or IV - Administer IV dose slowly over 1-2 min - MAX = 50 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphenhydramine 25 mg ELIXIR/CAPSULE</td>
<td>25-50 mg PO</td>
<td>1 mg/kg PO - MAX = 50 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinephrine auto-injector (Epi-pen® administration or Epinephrine 1:1,000 vial)</td>
<td>Hives, diffuse erythema, bronchospasm, laryngeal edema, hypotension: 0.3 mg IM <strong>Use 0.3 mg auto-injector</strong></td>
<td>Hives, diffuse erythema, bronchospasm, laryngeal edema, hypotension: Weight ≤ 25 kg: 0.15 mg IM (Use 0.15 mg auto-injector) Weight &gt; 25 kg: 0.3 mg IM (Use 0.3 mg auto-injector)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinephrine 1 mg/10 mL PREFILLED SYRINGE for IV administration (Anaphylaxis) (1:10,000)</td>
<td>Anaphylaxis (ONLY for very unstable patient: severe hypotension, tachycardia, severe airway edema) 0.1 to 0.3 mg SLOW IV push (1 mL to 3 mL of 1:10,000 dilution) May repeat every 5 – 15 minutes as needed up to 1 mg total</td>
<td>Anaphylaxis: 0.01 mg/kg IV (0.1 mL/kg of 1:10,000 dilution) MAX individual dose: less than or equal to 30 kg = 0.15 mg (1.5 mL) &gt; 30 kg = 0.1 to 0.3 mg (1 mL to 3 mL) - May repeat up to 1 mg total dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furosemide 20 mg VIAL</td>
<td>20-40 mg IV - Administer slowly over 2 min</td>
<td>0.5-1 mg/kg IV - Administer slowly over 2 min - MAX = 40 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labetalol 100 mg/20 mL VIAL</td>
<td>20 mg IV (for hypertensive crisis, BP &gt; 200/120 mm Hg and symptoms of end organ compromise) - Administer slowly, over 2 min - May double dose every 10 min</td>
<td>0.2 - 1 mg/kg IV bolus - Administer slowly, over 2 min - MAX = 20 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methylprednisolone 125 mg VIAL</td>
<td>125 mg IVP administered over 3 minutes</td>
<td>0.5 mg/kg IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitroglycerin 0.4 mg SL tabs</td>
<td>0.4 mg tab SL - May repeat every 5-10 min</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium chloride 0.9% 500 mL</td>
<td>1,000 mL rapidly IV</td>
<td>10-20 mL/kg; MAX = 500 mL - 1,000 mL IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References:
Protocol for Extravasated Contrast Material
(Formerly Addendum I.15C)

Modified from the ACR Manual of Contrast Media Manual

Background:
Extravasated iodinated contrast media is hyperosmolar and toxic to the surrounding tissues. Most patients recover without sequelae but severe adverse events may occur. Extravasation produces an acute local inflammatory response that peaks at 24-48 hrs although ulceration and tissue necrosis may occur as early as 6 hours after the extravasation. Extravasation of a large volume of contrast material can produce a compartment syndrome.

Evaluation and Treatment:

- All patients in which an extravasation has occurred should be evaluated by a radiologist from the service that would be reading the exam.
- All outpatients should be monitored in the department for a minimum of 1 hour even if the patient is asymptomatic.
- Elevation of the extremity and a cold or warm compress should be applied to the site up to four times/day for 1-3 days (This decision is based on radiologist and patient preference)
- If the symptoms improve or the patient remains asymptomatic, they may be sent home but told to go immediately to an ER if symptoms deteriorate or if there are skin/neurologic changes (ulceration, blistering, change in sensation).
- If symptoms have not improved after 2 hours or skin/neurologic changes develop, the patient should be referred to the emergency room.
- For inpatients, the extremity should be elevated and a cold or warm compress should be applied (as above). Inpatients may be sent back to the floor but the house staff must be notified of the incident.
- A plastic surgical consult is frequently not necessary and a reliance of a volume threshold for surgical consultation is unreliable. In general, the need for surgical consultation should be made on the basis of the patient’s signs and symptoms.
- An immediate plastic surgical consultation is indicated with the following:
  - Increasing swelling/pain after 2-4 hours.
  - Altered tissue perfusion as evidenced by decreased capillary refill
  - Change in sensation of the affected limb
  - Skin ulceration or blistering.

Documentation:

- All extravasation events should be documented in the radiology report and the referring physician should be notified.
- The technologist is responsible to ensure that the extravasation incident is documented in Event Reporting system.

ACR Reference on Contrast Extravasations
“There is no clear consensus regarding effective treatment for contrast medium extravasation. Elevation of the affected extremity above the level of the heart to decrease capillary hydrostatic pressure and thereby promote resorption of extravasated fluid is recommended, but controlled studies demonstrating the efficacy of this treatment are lacking. There is no clear evidence favoring the use of either warm or cold compresses in cases of extravasation. As a result there are some radiologists who use warm compresses and some who use cold compresses. Those who have used cold have reported that it may be helpful for relieving pain at the injection site. Those who have used heat have found it helpful in improving absorption of the extravasation as well as in improving blood flow, particularly distal to the site”
Contrast Extravasation Discharge Instructions

During your test today, you had intravenous contrast material extravasation. This means that some of the IV fluid or contrast material went into the tissues of your arm/hand. This may cause swelling and discomfort. The fluid will be absorbed by your tissues and any symptoms should go away.

The contrast material used was_____________________________________

The approximate amount of extravasation was _________________________

Treatment:

- Try to keep the affected extremity elevated above the level of the heart as much as possible.
- You can apply either warm or cold compresses for 15 minutes a few times a day for 3 days or until the symptoms resolve.

Seek immediate medical attention if:

1. your swelling or pain do not improve
2. your skin blisters
3. there is increased firmness at the site
4. your arm or an area on your arm or hand becomes red
5. you experience a change in sensation of your hand or arm such as numbness and tingling

I have read and understand these instructions and received a copy.

Name of patient ________________________________________________

Signature of patient ____________________________________________
Policies Specific to CT Contrast Media
I. Procedure Guidelines for Oral Contrast

1. All Patients
   a. Prior to the administration of oral contrast, the patient’s clinical history including medications, allergies and sensitivity and drugs, will be reviewed by the technologist in the patient’s medical record, or obtained using the appropriate outpatient questionnaire, and subsequently scanned into the RIS medical record.

   b. If no contraindications are noted, the technologist proceeds with oral contrast administration as per protocol identified by the radiologist.

   c. All patients routinely receive an iohexol (Omnipaque®) in H20 mixture, prepared according to the radiologist protocol, labeled with patient’s demographics, and provided to the patient or nurse with instructions for administration.

   d. If contraindications are noted, the request is referred to the radiologist for further consideration. An oral Barium Sulfate solution may be prescribed for patients allergic to iodinated contrast.

   e. A physician must be readily available during the contrast examination.

   f. A contrast reaction kit and emergency equipment (including a code cart, if a hospital site), must be readily available. See Policy II.6 – Emergency Equipment & Supplies

2. In-patients
   a. Labeled oral contrast will be delivered to the in-patient floor for administration to the patient by their nurse.

3. Adult ED Patients
   a. After the ED patient’s Pregnancy and eGFR test results are available (for select patients), the ED physician will order the contrast CT exam (Oral or IV) in the RIS, and include pertinent clinical history.

   b. CT exams requiring contrast will be reviewed and protocolled by radiology prior to dispensing and administering the contrast agent. The exception to this is for a “FULL Trauma” ED patient.

   c. If the study requires oral contrast it will be picked up in Radiology and given to the patient by ED nurse.

   d. Patient imaging will begin approximately 45 minutes after the patient begins drinking it. Extended oral preparation may be prescribed by the radiologist at their discretion based on exam indication.
4. **Pediatric ED Patients**
   
   a. After the contrast request has been reviewed by the radiologist, the appropriate dose will be determined.

   b. Oral contrast will be dispensed to the pediatric ED for administration to the pediatric patient by their nurse.

   c. The patient’s nurse will notify the ED radiology scheduler as the patient finishes drinking the oral contrast to coordinate exam timing.

**References**

CT Scan Oral Contrast
(FORMERLY Addendum I.15I)

25ml Omnipaque (Iohexol) in 900ml of Water

Patient Name: _______________________________
MRN: ___________________ Pt. Location________
Date: ______________ Exp.Date/Time____________
Start Oral: _____________ Finish_____________
Approx. Scan Time: ______________

Please instruct patient to drink contrast over the assigned hour. Please call 8-5639 if you have any questions or the patient cannot follow instruction, so we can expedite the procedure. If the start time is delayed please inform 85639. Inform the MD if the patient experiences any adverse events such as difficulty breathing or itching.

Rev 3/18/10

CT Scan Oral Contrast
Barium Sulfate Suspension (2.1%w/v, 2.0%w/w)

Patient Name: _______________________________
MRN: ___________________ Pt. Location________
Date: ______________ Exp.Date/Time____________
Start Oral: _____________ Finish_____________
Approx. Scan Time: ______________

Please instruct patient to drink contrast over the assigned hour. Please call 8-5639 if you have any questions or the patient cannot follow instruction, so we can expedite the procedure. If the start time is delayed please inform 85639. Inform the MD if the patient experiences any adverse events such as difficulty breathing or itching.

Rev 3/18/10
For Diabetic Patients on Glucophage or Glucovance

How to take diabetes medicine that contain Metformin* after receiving a contrast injection for a CT Scan

*The diabetes medications that contain Metformin include:

- Actoplus
- Avandamet
- Fortamet
- Glucophage
- Glumetza
- Janumet
- Kombiglyze
- Metaglip
- Prandimet
- Riomet

If you suffer from:

- Alcohol abuse
- Angina
- Heart failure
- Kidney problems
- Liver disease
- Severe infection

Stop taking Metformin and contact your doctor within 48 hours before restarting. Show this sheet to your doctor.

If you do not suffer from any of the above conditions:

- Continue taking Metformin normally.

Information for MDs

- Category 1: Normal renal function and none of the above co-morbidities: Metformin need not be discontinued.
- Category 2: Normal renal function but above co-morbidities: May restart Metformin after 48 hours if clinically stable.
- Category 3: Renal dysfunction: May restart Metformin only after cautious follow up of renal function.
Low-Osmolar Iodinated Contrast and Myasthenia Gravis

Low-osmolar iodinated contrast has been shown to have a weak association with exacerbation of Myasthenia Gravis-related symptoms, most commonly respiratory compromise. This association has been discussed with Yale Neurology who feel that the low risk does not merit screening patients for Myasthenia at this point. If a patient declares himself or herself as suffering from Myasthenia Gravis, our policy should be to reassure them that it is highly unlikely that any deterioration in symptoms will occur.
- The CT technologist or RN may start an IV for use during CT scan exams requiring contrast.
- ALL existing peripheral or central lines must be check for patency (see protocol below).
- Policy for power injection of Central Venous Devices (CVAD): After all injections flush catheter.

CVADs (Quinton, Non-power Hickman, Permacaths, non-power PICCS, should not be used in CT Scan. CVADs with TPN infusions cannot be used for contrast injection unless TPN has been disconnected and vigorously flushed by RN prior to exam before patient leaves floor.

The following lines are acceptable CVADs for any CT scan: Power PICCS, non-Power Ports and Triple lumens @ 1cc/sec/100 PSI and Power Ports:

- Following Hand Hygiene Policy at all times: wash or Purell, don gloves, remove gloves, then wash or Purell.
- CVAD lumen access may be performed by the CT technologist.
- Prior to use: All CVAD lines used for contrast with injector or hand injection must have a 15 sec hub scrub with approved disinfectant and allowed to air dry (minimum 15 seconds).
- All CVAD’s must be checked for patency and blood return, using a 10 cc saline syringe with 3 cc removed. Aspirate 3 cc to test for blood return and discard. A CVAD should not be used without verification of blood return.
- The contrast for all CVAD’s is Omnipaque 350 (except Pediatrics).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CVD</th>
<th>Lumen Size</th>
<th>Flow Rate</th>
<th>PSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indwelling Portacaths</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 cc/sec</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Ports</td>
<td>CTAs may be injected 3 cc/sec</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Must be accessed with Power Port needle. See recommendation rates on Power Port needle tag)

Policy for injection of Power PICC lines:

- All hubs should be hub scrubbed with approved disinfectant prior to use (follow above protocol).
- Contrast may only be injected on a Power PICC line at rate and PSI that is listed on the hub.
- Non-power PICC lines should never be injected with contrast.

Policy for power injection of IV catheters in a foot vein:
• For all sizes, this can be performed if there is no other IV access.
• Contrast is to be injected at 1 cc/sec with 100 PSI.
• CT technologist must monitor injection site for the duration of injection.
• All hubs should be hub scrubbed with approved disinfectant prior to use (follow above protocol).

**Policy for use of injector for 5F micropuncture introducers placed by IR:**

- These may be used for power injection up to 5 cc/sec at 300 PSI.
- All hubs should be hub scrubbed with approved disinfectant prior to use (follow above protocol).

**Policy for use of injector for EJ and IJ catheter access: with 15 sec Hub scrub:**

1. All EJ and IJ IV catheters must be checked for patency and blood return. Access may be performed by the CT technologist.
2. An EJ or IJ IV catheter should not be used without verification of blood return. (see above protocol)
3. The contrast for all EJ and IJ catheters is Omnipaque 350.
4. CT technologist should monitor injection site for as long as possible during the injection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location and Lumen Size</th>
<th>Flow Rate</th>
<th>PSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18, 20g IV access</td>
<td>2 cc/sec</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22g IV access</td>
<td>2 cc/sec</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Injection rate use in PEDI patients: Including foot veins:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lumen Size</th>
<th>Flow Rate</th>
<th>PSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 or 20 g</td>
<td>2 cc/sec</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 g</td>
<td>2 cc/sec</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 g</td>
<td>1.5 cc/sec</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** No IV medication drips should be stopped or restarted without a RN’s help. Injector should not be used with an IV that has questionable patency. If in doubt, question the radiologist or the patient’s care givers.
Pedi Broviac:

- **In-Patient Pediatric patients:**
  - call the RN.
  - Instruct RN to accompany the patient.
  - Pedi RN will need to follow YNHH hub scrub policy.
  - Pedi RN will hub scrub and access the pedi patient’s Broviac.
  - Omni 300 may be hand injected by the nurse or technologist using a 10 cc syringe.
  - The RN should then follow YNHH heparin flush policy.

- **Out-patients:** Call Pedi RNs as above

Power Hickman:

- **In-Patients:**
  - Call the floor to check IV status.
  - If the RN states the patient has a Hickman: Question the RN: Is the Hickman a Power Hickman (labeled on the clamp: with maximum injection rate)?
  - Has there been TPN running: If yes: flush now and DC TPN and clearly mark lumen used for TPN.
  - Send patient with no meds running.
  - Keep open flush is allowed.
  - Instruct RN that the patient will return **without** the catheter being flushed with heparin.
  - If the TPN cannot be stopped and flushed before leaving the floor, the Hickman may not be used for the contrast injection.
  - Follow 15 second hubs scrub and allow to air dry (minimum 15 seconds).
  - Do not disconnect injector prior to exam completion or the hub scrub will need to be repeated.
  - Maximum flow rate will be listed on the lumen clamp.

- **Out-patients:**
  - Follow 15 second hubs scrub and allow to air dry (minimum 15 seconds).
  - Maximum flow rate will be listed on the lumen clamp.
  - Do not disconnect injector prior to exam completion or the hub scrub will need to be repeated.
  - Call Core IR RN to install heparin post injection per YNHH policy.
CT Intraosseous Iodinated Contrast Injection Policy

IO lines may be used for power injection of iodinated contrast for CT

1. Flush IO line with 20cc IO saline. If IO line does not flush easily, do not use.

2. If Patient is unconscious, no analgesia is required. If patient is conscious and responsive to pain, IO 2% epinephrine free lidocaine should be administered just prior to contrast as per the protocol below:

**ADULT:**

- Prime EZ-Connect extension set with lidocaine *Note that the priming volume of the EZ-Connect is approximately 1.0ml.*
- Slowly infuse lidocaine 40 mg IO over 2 minutes.
- Allow lidocaine to dwell in IO space for 1 minute.
- Flush with 5 to 10 mLs of normal saline.
- Slowly administer an additional 20 mg of lidocaine IO over 1 minute.

**Pediatric:**

- Usual dose is 0.5mg/kg, not to exceed 40mg.
- Prime EZ-Connect extension set with lidocaine.
- *Note that the priming volume of the EZ-Connect is approximately 1.0ml.*
- Slowly infuse lidocaine over 2 minutes.
- Allow lidocaine to dwell in IO space for 1 minute.
- Flush with 2-5 mLs of normal saline.
- Slowly administer subsequent lidocaine (half the initial dose) IO over 1 minute.

3. Hook power injector tubing directly to IO line hub.

4. Inject contrast through IO line. Humeral IO lines can be injected at 1.4 cc/sec at 300 psi and tibial IO lines can be injected at 0.3 cc/sec at 300 psi.

5. Disconnect power injector tubing from the IO line hub and flush the IO line with 20 cc IO saline.

**Patients with a Single Kidney**

It has been shown that there are no significant differences in the rate of AKI attributable to contrast enhanced CT in patients with a solitary kidney versus two kidneys. Therefore, patients with a solitary kidney should receive the same amount of IV contrast as those with two kidneys. This can be edited at the discretion of the supervising radiologist in patients with compromised renal function.

*McDonald JS et al. Radiology 278;74-81:2016*
Please follow the below link for a list of CT screening forms used by the department:

POLICIES SPECIFIC TO MRI CONTRAST MEDIA

All MRI polices have been moved, and are now centrally located within the YNHH MRI safety manual. Please click the below link to be routed to the manual:

https://ynhh.ellucid.com/documents/view/20133