CONTRAST MEDIUM INFILTRATION

POLICY:

Registered nurses, radiology technicians, and/or radiologists will take the following action when a contrast medium infiltrates.

PURPOSE:

To provide direction when a contrast medium infiltration has occurred.

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

1. Prevention is the key to avoiding this complication.
2. Identifying patients who are at greater risk for an infiltration may help to prevent this complication. These patients include the following:
   * patients who are unable to tell you there is a problem with the IV (e.g. children, unconscious)
   * patients with abnormal circulation to the extremity used for injection (e.g. patients with diabetes, PVD, stroke)
   * patients who are receiving chemotherapy through the IV access
3. The symptoms of an infiltration include redness, swelling or tenderness at the IV site and a stinging or burning sensation as the contrast is being infused.

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<th>Procedure Steps</th>
<th>Key Points</th>
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<td>1. Stop the contrast infusion immediately and remove the needle.</td>
<td>1. To prevent further tissue damage</td>
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<td>2. Notify the radiologist immediately</td>
<td>3. This action assists the tissue in reabsorbing the contrast.</td>
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<td>3. Elevate the affected extremity above the level of the heart.</td>
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<td>4. Apply heat or cold to area of infiltration, as directed by radiologist.</td>
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<td>5. Assess and document the affected extremity for redness, skin blisters or ulcerations, firmness at the IV site, and a change of temperature or sensation distal to the infiltration. Obtain radiograph or fluoroscopy of area if Radiologist requests.</td>
<td>5. Recommended treatment may vary by the radiologist on a case-to-case basis.</td>
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<td>6. If incident occurs after radiology nursing hours, the technologist should notify a nurse to inspect the site.</td>
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7. If symptoms are not present or resolved that patient may return home or return to their assigned room.

11. The radiologist nurse or supervisor should follow up via telephone for outpatients and bedside visits for inpatients 24 hours following the incident.

12. Complete a variance report. Have radiologist and director sign and send it to QI.

7. All outpatients will be sent home with discharge instructions including a phone number in case of an emergency.

12. Provides the nurse with pertinent information for follow up. Is used to collect data for QI studies.

DOCUMENTATION:

A. Radiology Nurses Notes
B. Contrast Medium Infiltration Report
C. Contrast Medium Infiltration Discharge Instructions
CONTRAST MEDIUM INFILTRATION REPORT

PATIENT INFORMATION

Examinaing radiologist ________________________________
Patient’s name ________________________________
Medical record number ________________________________ Room number ________________________________
Home phone number ________________________________ Work phone number ________________________________

Attending physician ________________________________ ☐ Notified
Person filling out report ________________________________ Date ________________ Time ________________

SITE

☐ Left hand ☐ Left antecubital fossa ☐ Right forearm
☐ Left forearm ☐ Right hand ☐ Right antecubital fossa
☐ Other ________________________________

CONTRAST AGENT USED

☐ Conray 60 ☐ Optiray
☐ Other ________________________________

DESCRIPTION

☐ Red ☐ Warm ☐ Swollen
☐ Hard ☐ Painful
☐ Other ________________________________

SIZE OF INFILTRATION (APPROXIMATELY)

____________________________________________________________________________________

TREATMENT

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Contrast Medium Infiltration Discharge Instructions

1. Observe the affected extremity for
   • increased redness or skin color change
   • increased pain
   • blisters
   • firmness at site
   • unusually cold/hot at site
   • change in sensation of the extremity
   If any of these symptoms occur, notify the radiology department or go to the closest emergency department.

2. Elevate the affected extremity above the level of the heart for the next ______ hours.

3. Apply mild heat to the site for the next ___6___ hours.

3. Take Tylenol (one to two tablets every four to six hours) as necessary for discomfort at the infiltration site.

4. If any questions develop after you arrive home, please call the radiology department or ER at 641-754-5076.

Discharge instructions have been explained to the patient. The patient or the person responsible for the patient fully understands these instructions.

Date_______________  Time ____________________________

Patient’s Signature ____________________________________

Radiologist’s Signature ________________________________

Signature Of Person Giving Instructions __________________