

CONTRAST ADMINISTRATION POLICY

Objective: To maintain safety when performing contrast enhanced MRI examinations and address the issues related to the administration of contrast material (Gadolinium)

What you should know about contrast administration:

- Intravenous contrast may only be administered during standard business hours when appropriate supervising physicians are physically present in the office.
- All patients receiving gadolinium contrast media should be screened for Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF) risks, contrast sensitivity, allergies, acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and other conditions that may reduce renal function (i.e.: diabetes or high blood pressure).
- All patients receiving contrast media will complete an appropriate [Informed Consent](#) (at the time of scheduling or prior to the commencement of their examination). This consent is kept with the patient's medical record according to policy.
- If the patient has known compromised kidney or liver functions, he/she will need to be consulted and may need additional information to proceed. However, VSON uses Multihance OR Prohance which are class II agents. These agents are associated with few, if any, unconfounded cases of NSF. (Note: refer to Diversified Radiology's contrast protocol insert.) Thus, it is not necessary to perform regular labs for eGFR. VSO will continue to screen and based on medical necessity per case, perform labs as needed.
 - If labs are needed:
 - The eGFR must be based on current lab values, or results obtained within 60 days prior to their scheduled exam.
 - The doc's tech will put in lab orders through eCW, and fax to the appropriate lab.
 - The results must be faxed to VSON and routed to the MR department once completed.
 - The current eGFR is reviewed following the MR Director's recommendation.
- It has been predetermined, by VSON's MR Director (Dr. Trystain Johnson of Diversified Radiology), and the contrast manufacturer insert (BRACCO) that the recommended guidelines are followed for proper dosages of contrast media.
 - The MR Director states that if Glomerular Filtration Rate GFR < 30 the patient should not be injected with Gadolinium.
 - If the GFR rate is between 30 and 60, the MR technologist or MR assistant should inform the ordering provider to see if Gadolinium is needed or if the dose should be adjusted.
 - If the GFR > 60, the amount of Gadolinium should be based on 0.1mL per pound.
 - The maximum dosage of Gadolinium will not exceed 20mL regardless of patient weight
- All patients will be advised during scheduling to increase hydration for 12 hours prior to their appointment.
- Although contrast agents are widely used with safe outcomes and little or no side effects, adverse reactions, nonetheless may occur. They may be severe, and they may progress rapidly. Successful patient management during contrast-enhanced examinations requires all the following:
 - Knowledge of the patient's medical history.

- Patient preparation, including premedication, if necessary.
- Proper selection of the agent to be used.
- Knowledge of the pathophysiology of contrast reactions.
- Prompt recognition and accurate assessment of reactions.
- Immediate availability of necessary equipment and drugs.
- Adequate prior planning and training.
- Current knowledge of medications and other treatment options.
- Minor allergic reactions and complications will be treated by the supervising physician at VSO.
- Moderate to severe allergic reactions or other severe complications require evaluation of the patient by emergency personnel. Refer to the policy titled “Management of Adverse Reaction to Contrast Media”.
 - In the event of a moderate to severe allergic reaction, the patient’s emergency contact shall be notified and advised to take the patient home.
 - All adverse events are documented on an incident report and communicated to the referring physician.
 - All our policies are reviewed and updated annually by the members of our Quality Improvement (QI) team.

VSON Complies with all federal, state, and local laws regarding contrast administration.
