

ADMINISTRATION OF ORAL CONTRAST MEDIA / PRE-EXAM PREPARATION FOR ABDOMEN AND PELVIS CT EXAM

Purpose: To ensure proper mixing, labeling and administration of oral contrast media to patients scheduled for CT scans of abdomen and pelvis.

Policy:

1. Oral contrast media shall be prepared immediately prior to distribution and administration according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - a. **To prepare MD-Gastroview** (diatrizoate meglumine and
 - i. diatrizoate sodium solution U.S.P., 367 mg/ml, organically bound
 - ii. iodine for gastrointestinal radiography):
 - iii. mix 25 cc of gastroview in one liter of sterile water
 - b. **Barium sulfate suspensions** do not require dilution. The mixture must be shaken well immediately prior to administration. (READI-CAT and CHEETAH are barium sulfate suspensions)
2. Radiology personnel will attach a completed "MEDICATION ADDED" label as appropriate to containers which contain oral contrast media.
3. "Ready-to-use" oral contrast containers shall be labeled by Radiology personnel prior to distribution and administration to all in-house patients. The label shall contain the following information:
 - a. patient's name
 - b. medical record number
 - c. patient location
 - d. date
 - e. initials of radiology personnel delivering the oral contrast media
4. The appropriate nursing personnel responsible for care of the patient will be notified by radiology personnel of the intent to administer oral contrast media. At this time the need for administration of oral contrast, the patient's status and ability to comply with instructions will be discussed.

5. After notification of appropriate nursing personnel, radiology will deliver the oral contrast media to the patient. Prior to administration of the oral contrast media radiology personnel shall confirm the patient's identity by the following methods:
 - a. Radiology personnel will ask the patient their name and wait for a verbal response.
 - b. The patient's identification bracelet will be checked and the name and medical record number confirmed as a match to the name and medical record number designated by the label on the oral contrast container.
6. If a positive identification of the patient can not be made by radiology personnel, the patient's nurse must be contacted to positively identify the patient. Upon identification the nurse shall initial the oral contrast label documenting the patient's identification prior to administration.
7. After a positive identification of the patient has been completed radiology personnel will explain the impending CT procedure to the patient and verbally instruct the patient on the administration of the oral contrast media.
8. Radiology will observe the patient for 5-10 minutes to evaluate the patient's ability to tolerate the oral contrast. Nursing personnel shall be notified immediately of any complication or of the patient's inability to tolerate the oral contrast.
9. If the patient is able to tolerate the oral contrast media, radiology personnel will instruct the patient to notify the nurse when he/she has completed drinking the oral contrast media. (To avoid an unpleasant sensation or nausea some patients must drink the contrast slowly.)
10. Upon notification that the patient has completed the CT pre exam preparation, nursing personnel must notify radiology. Radiology (CT) will inform the nurse of the required arrival time of the patient to the CT area.

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