ASSESSMENT OF THE PREGNANT PATIENTS AND PATIENTS IN CHILDBEARING YEARS

Purpose: To Identify patients of child bearing age which may be pregnant and are pregnant and take the necessary safety precautions to protect the fetus against radiation exposure and or contrast medium.

Policy: Adhere to: Radiology Hospital Policy 5.6 and Radiology Hospital Policy 5.7

- Imaging exams that are scheduled or ordered through RIS or EPIC system on female patients of childbearing age require that the pregnancy status and last menstrual period be documented.

- Before any imaging or interventional procedure, the Radiology Technologist or Nurse will inquire from all female patients of childbearing age if they are pregnant or if there is a possibility they are pregnant. If the patient is unsure or does not recall their last menstrual period a pregnancy test shall be performed. Document in EPIC all findings.

- If a patient is pregnant, the specific situation will determine the appropriate course of action.

- Hospital Policy 5.7 will be followed if the patient is pregnant and the procedure deemed necessary or emergent.

Contrast Media Administration to Pregnant or Potentially Pregnant patients:
Studies of contrast (iodinated and gadolinium-based) in pregnancy are limited. Effects of contrast on the human embryo or fetus are unknown. It must be assumed that all contrast media cross the blood-placenta barrier into the fetus. No data is available to assess the rate of clearance of contrast agents from the amniotic fluid. It is not possible to state with certainty if contrast agents present a risk or pose no risk to the fetus so all patients of child-bearing age should be screened.

Written: 8/10/1998
Reviewed: 1/14/07
Revised: 9/09/2012
Updated: October 2013