

ATLANTIC MEDICAL IMAGING

POLICY STATEMENT AND PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

CATEGORY: PATIENT CARE

Subject: Contrast Reaction Procedure

Purpose:

To assure all employees follow the proper steps for patient care and documentation post contrast reaction.

Policy:

It is the policy of AMI that all patients who suffer an allergic reaction following an injection of contrast medium be cared for appropriately and that proper documentation is in place to decrease possibility of subsequent allergic reactions.

Procedure:

When a patient has an allergic reaction to a contrast injection, please be sure to follow the proper steps for patient care and documentation:

- If the patient is unstable or reaction is emergent, 911 should be called immediately.
- Notify the nurse or radiologist of the reaction. The patient will be treated on a case-by-case basis dependent on their symptoms and the patient's history. All treatment and medications will be ordered by the radiologist. ***See Medication Treatment table for reference of mild/moderate reactions.***
- If the patient is symptomatic of a mild or moderate reaction, IV should be left in place and patient monitored for 20-30 minutes to ensure reaction is resolving without progression. If the patient's airway is unaffected, patient can be provided water to drink during monitoring.
- Using the "Contrast Allergy Documentation Form", document the reaction and treatment. Be sure to have this documentation sheet signed by the radiologist, who provided the treatment, this is considered the written order. This "Contrast Allergy Documentation Form" is to be scanned into RIS with the corresponding exam.
- Be sure to fill in and review the "Contrast Instructions Form" with the patient. Have the patient sign that they have read and understand the instructions given. Scan the signed instruction sheet into RIS with the corresponding exam and return the instruction sheet to the patient.
- An incident report is needed on all allergic reactions. The completed incident report should be forwarded to your office administrator/office manager. This form is for internal purposes only and should not be scanned into RIS.
- Be sure to notify the nurses, by email, of the allergic reaction. A nurse will "flag" the patient's allergy in their RIS account. This will make it possible for anyone accessing the

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account to immediately see the patient’s allergy to contrast and the patient will receive an appropriate prep prior to subsequent injections.

- Approximately 24 hours after the contrast injection, or on the next business day, a phone call will be made to the patient for follow up. This conversation is to be documented on the “Contrast Allergy Documentation Form” sheet under the “Follow Up” section and scanned into RIS under the original study date.
- If for any reason the study for which the contrast was injected cannot be completed by the patient and the study is not in PACS, all forms, other than the incident report, would then be scanned into RIS under AMI Documents.

Table 3: MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE REACTIONS TO CONTRAST MEDIA IN ADULTS
Last updated: October 2020

HIVES (Urticaria)

	Treatment	Dosing
<i>Mild (scattered and/or transient)</i>	No treatment often needed; however, if symptomatic, can consider:	
	Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)*	25–50 mg PO
	or	
	Fexofenadine (Allegra®)**	180 mg PO
<i>Moderate (more numerous/bothersome)</i>	Monitor vitals	
	Preserve IV access	
	Consider diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)*	25–50 mg PO
	or	
	Fexofenadine (Allegra®)**	180 mg PO
	or	
	Consider diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)*	25–50 mg IM or IV (administer IV dose slowly over 1–2 min)
<i>Severe (widespread and/or progressive)</i>	Monitor vitals	
	Preserve IV access	
<i>Consider</i>	Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®)*	25–50 mg IM or IV (administer IV dose slowly over 1–2 min)
* Note: all forms can cause drowsiness; IM/IV form may cause or worsen hypotension	** Note: second generation antihistamines cause less drowsiness; may be beneficial for patients who need to drive themselves home	

*Please note Fexofenadine (Allegra) is the first line of treatment for patients requiring treatment with medication for a moderate reaction as it is non drowsy and the patient can drive home.