	Policy #6.4
SUBJECT: Contrast Extravasation	Written: 1/00 Reviewed:3/19
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CONTRAST EXTRAVASATION

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for the treatment of contrast media extravasations.

Policy:

1. The Radiology Technologist in attendance will notify the appropriate staff or resident radiologist.
2. When informed of such event, the appropriate resident or staff (on service daytime/on call night) must:
 - a. Examine the patient and determine the extent of soft tissue injury/swelling.
 - b. Document the extent of soft tissue involvement by obtaining a radiograph. Via Pelican, order a “CT Extravasation” for the purpose of obtaining a no-charge radiograph. This Extravasation order should be verified and tracked to End Procedure so that image can be read with CT exam. The image is **NOT** to be deleted.
 - c. Treat according to guideline below.*
 - d. **NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE REFERRING PHYSICIAN.** During the day this should be a senior resident or staff, at night the covering or floating resident.
 - e. Acknowledge notification in the medical record including assessment of the patient and the plan of care on the Contrast Extravasation Report Form (Form #S/N7140) which is to be scanned into Pelican via Media Manager then sent to medical records at completion of the observation period.
3. The technologist will generate an on-line Variance Report in accordance with hospital policy.
 - a. Complete the Variance Report. Record findings, therapy and physician notification.
 - b. The description of the on-line variance report should contain the following:
 - Patient scheduled for CT of _____ with IV contrast.
 - IV was started by _____
 - The _____ gauge IV site was located _____
 - IV was flushed by _____
 - Early phase of IV contrast injection was monitored by _____;
 - _____ ml’s was injected before injection was discontinued due to _____.
 - _____ ml of saline and/or _____ ml’s of IV contrast (Brand Name)
 - Dr. _____ was called to examine patient.
 - Contrast extravasation report form was completed by Dr _____.
 - Patient was treated with _____.
 - Extent of soft tissue involvement documented by radiograph.
 - Out come- Examples another IV was started and exam was completed or Patient was sent to the nursing unit to get another IV started or exam was cancelled by Dr. _____.

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- c. The Variance Report shall be forwarded to Desiree Bell – Technical Director of Radiology; Shatarshea Murray – Clinical Support; Dr. Horacio D’Agostino – Chairman of Department of Radiology; as an adverse drug reaction.

Treatment Guidelines:

1. Treat according to guidelines below.
 - a. Elevate the affected extremity above the heart.
 - b. Apply ice pack (15-60 minutes 3x day for 1-3 days)
 - c. Close observation for 2-4 hours if volume exceeds 5ml.
 - d. CONSULT PLASTIC SURGERY if the extravasated volume >30 ml ionic or >100 ml nonionic, skin is blistered, sensation altered or decreased perfusion (decreased capillary refill) or increasing pain over 2-4 hour observation period.

2. FOLLOW UP. The patient should be seen by a radiologist or referring physician within 24-48 hours to document resolution/improvement in swelling and exclude complication. (Ask about blistering, pain, skin hardness or color change, change in sensation). If outpatients are unwilling or unable to return to Ochsner LSU Health within 24-48 hours, a phone contact must be made to ascertain verbal confirmation of improvement.

Reference: *Radiology* Sept. 1996; 200:593-604