	Policy #6.2.1
SUBJECT: Administration of Gastrografin	Written: 12/04 Reviewed: 03/19
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Purpose:

To provide instructions to Radiologic Technologist concerning administration of gastrografin the Radiology department.


Gastrografin (Diatrizoate Meglumine and Diatrizoate Sodium Solution) is indicated for radiographic examination of segments of the gastrointestinal tract (esophagus, stomach, proximal small intestine, and colon). The preparation is particularly indicated when a more viscous agent such as barium sulfate, which is not water-soluble, is not feasible or is potentially dangerous.

Policy:

1. All patients must have a valid order prior to receiving contrast/medication.
2. All patients must have a medication questionnaire filled out prior to receiving contrast/medication.
3. All patients will be questioned about allergies, prior contrast exposure, pregnancy, and current medications.
4. There must be a crash cart immediately available on the floor.
5. The contrast expiration date must be checked prior to preparation.
6. Thorough inspection of the package should be made for damages, leakage, tears, etc. prior to preparation.
7. The contrast must be prepared in front of the patient.

A. Radiographic Examination of Segments of the Gastrointestinal Tract

1. *Oral Administration:* Adult oral dosage may range from 30 to 90 mL (11 to 33 g iodine), depending on the nature of the examination and the size of the patient. For infants and children less than 5 years of age, 30 mL (11 g iodine) are usually adequate; for children 5 to 10 years of age, the suggested dose is 60 mL (22 g iodine). These pediatric doses **may be diluted** 1:1, if desired, with water, carbonated beverage, milk, or mineral oil. When used in infants, the solution may be given in a nursing bottle. **Pediatric doses may also be used in dehydrated and/or debilitated adult patients. A 1:1 dilution is also recommended when the contrast medium is used in elderly cachectic individuals.**
2. For very young (under 10 kg) and debilitated children *the dose should be diluted:* 1 part Gastrografin (Diatrizoate Meglumine and Diatrizoate Sodium Solution) in 3 parts water is recommended.
3. *For Enemas or Enterostomy Instillations:* Gastrografin should be diluted when it is used for enemas and enterostomy instillations. When used as an enema, the suggested dilution for adults is 240 mL (88 g iodine) in 1,000 mL of tap water. For children under 5 years of age, a 1:5 dilution in tap water is suggested; for children over 5 years of age, 90 mL (33 g iodine) in 500 mL of tap water is a suitable dilution.
8. The radiologist is responsible for determining which type of contrast is to be administered.
9. The radiologist is responsible for determining the dosage and route of administration.
10. All contrast prepared that is not used, must be disposed.

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11. Patients will be assessed prior to contrast/medication, post administration, post procedure and all other applicable times.
12. Outpatients will receive post procedure instructions when applicable.
13. All contrast must be documented in the MAR/RIS.