

## **ASSESSMENT & TREATMENT OF IV CONTRAST EXTRAVASATION**

- The technologist will alert a radiologist to the contrast extravasation event, who will then assess the patient. ER personnel can also evaluate ER patients.
- The patient can be reinjected with contrast provided a new IV line is started, the line is located in another extremity and the line flushes freely and without patient discomfort.
- The extremity with the contrast extravasation will be elevated and either a hot or cold compress will be applied to the site.
- For outpatients, the patient should be advised to seek immediate medical care for worsening pain, swelling, skin redness/blistering, numbness/tingling or loss of muscle strength in the involved extremity.
- For inpatients, the patient's nurse should be advised of the event and instructed to frequently assess the patient for any of the above symptoms/signs.
- Surgical consultation should be ordered whenever there is progressive swelling or pain, altered tissue perfusion (as evidenced by decreased capillary refill), change in sensation, skin ulceration or blistering.
- Contrast extravasation events should be documented on the technologist's worksheet and in the radiologist's dictation.