

SPECIFIC PATIENT POPULATIONS

PURPOSE

- To ensure specific patient populations are able to undergo appropriate and safe MR imaging when possible.

RENAL FAILURE PATIENTS

- For patients whose GFR is <30 mL/min, IV gadolinium contrast should not be administered unless its use is necessary to answer the clinical questions and its use is approved by a radiologist.
- Patients do not need to sign an informed consent form and Nephrology approval is not required.
- If the patient is on hemodialysis, it is preferred that the patient receive IV contrast soon before the patient's next scheduled dialysis. The dialysis schedule should not be adjusted otherwise.
- Per current research the risk for nephrogenic systemic fibrosis (NSF) when using group II gadolinium agents (including Gadavist, MultiHance, ProHance, Clariscan and Dotarem) is sufficiently low to nonexistent. However, IV contrast should administered only be used when essential and when CT or US cannot answer the clinical question.

CLAUSTROPHOBIC & SEDATED PATIENTS

- Sedated, intubated, altered and unconscious patients with MR conditional implants can undergo MR imaging if implant conditions can be met due to the low risk of patient injury.
- If a patient cannot tolerate a MR examination because of claustrophobia, the patient's nurse will be notified.
- The nursing unit is responsible for obtaining physician orders for sedative medication.
- The MR technologist will assist the nurse when possible and acquire images as quickly as possible while maintaining patient safety and image quality.
- In the event an outpatient requires sedation, he/she will be rescheduled and the ordering clinician will be notified.
- Inpatients and ER patients that require sedation will be handled in accordance with the hospital's Moderate Sedation policy.
- If the patient is unable to complete the examination, the referring physician will be notified, the patient will be released from the MRI department and the event will be documented in the EMR.

PREGNANT PATIENTS

- Pregnant patients are allowed to undergo MR imaging during any trimester for appropriate indications.
- IV gadolinium contrast is only administered to a pregnant patient in the rare instance where the contrast is essential to answer the clinical questions and its use is approved by a radiologist and the patient's OB/GYN.