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Contrast Injection Pre-Medication Protocol

Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for latest version.

PURPOSE:

To establish a protocol for pre-medicating patients for contrast injection for patient's that have a known allergy to contrast.

POLICY:

- A. If a patient has had a previous reaction to IV contrast and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

Methylprednisolone 32 mg

12 & 2 hours prior to the exam

- B. If a patient has an allergy to **Prednisone**, a previous reaction to IV contrast, and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

DEXAMETHASONE 8MG PO

12 & 2 hours prior to the exam

- C. If patient is unable to take pills, then IV is available. See protocol below.
 a. IV only— If a patient has had a previous reaction to IV contrast and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

Hydrocortisone 200 mg IV

13, 7 & 1 hours prior to the exam.

- b. If a patient has an allergy to **Prednisone**, a previous reaction to IV contrast, and the ordering physician or the radiologist would like the patient to be pre-medicated, please use the following protocol:

DEXAMETHASONE 8MG IV

12 & 2 hours prior to the exam

- D. The ordering doctor will need to prescribe the appropriate premedications.
 E. If any questions ask the radiologist.

- F. If the patient's exam is delayed, then we do not need to ask a Radiologist for specific approval if it is within an hour of the premedication time. (For example, if they took meds at 12 and 2 hours before, and their scan time was Noon for example- then we can scan them up until 1pm)
 - G. If a patient has missed a dose, then Imaging will follow the following guidelines.
 - a. For Oral Premedications:
 - i. If the patient misses the 12 hours prior to injection dose, then the patient will need to be rescheduled.
 - ii. If the patient misses both doses (12 hours and 2 hours) prior to injection, then the patient will need to be rescheduled.
 - iii. If the patient misses the 2 hours prior to injection dose or it is longer timeframe than two hours prior to injection, then the patient will be given another dose of pre-medication.
 - 1. PO route- give 32 mg Methylprednisolone oral
 - a. Wait one hour after medication administration, then inject patient
 - 2. IV route- give 40 mg Solumedrol IV
 - a. Wait 15 minutes after medication administration, then inject patient.
 - b. For IV Premedications, the Technologist will refer to the Radiologist about appropriate premedication medications depending on each individual circumstance.
 - H. If the patient is in need of Emergent Premedications:
 - a. The physician ordering the test requiring emergency premedication will need to order the following recommended medications:
 - Solumedrol - 125mg IV
 - Benadryl - 50mg IV
 - b. Patient needs to be injected with imaging contrast 30-60 minutes following the completion of the above stated IV medications. The optimal scan time is 30 minutes after completion of above stated medications
 - c. If the time of Imaging contrast injection goes past 60 minutes after completion of above stated medications verify with a Radiologist before injecting patient with Imaging contrast.
 - d. A registered nurse needs to be present during the injection of Imaging contrast and while the images are obtained.
 - e. If the provider chooses to deviate from the suggested policy, please document in Meditech tech notes of premedication protocol, timing, and ED provider. The Radiologist does not need to be contacted for permission, since the ER provider oversees their care.
 - i. When deviating from suggested policy and the patient's known reaction is anaphylaxis and/or face/throat swelling, then a provider is required to be present in CT for the duration of the scan in the event that the patient needs to be intubated.
- e.f. See "Contrast Injection Emergent Premedication Nursing Coverage Standard Work" for guidance on nursing coverage.

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