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Fairfax Radiology Centers thanks our network of care providers for your referrals, as we continually seek to provide your patients with state-of-the-art medical imaging services.

We wish to inform you of updates to our intravenous contrast policies:

1. GFR threshold lowered to 30 for CT contrast

Studies indicate negligible risk of contrast-induced nephropathy with administration of iodinated contrast in patients with $\text{GFR} \geq 30 \text{ ml/min/1.73 sq. m.}$

2. No renal function restrictions for most MRI studies with standard contrast dose

Gadolinium-based MRI contrast agents have not been found to impair renal function.

Also, our most commonly used MRI contrast agents (Prohance, Gadavist, and Clariscan) have a very high safety performance with negligible risk of the rare condition nephrogenic systemic fibrosis NSF, requiring no eGFR check.

Even patients on dialysis can receive these agents at standard dose.

3. Contrast allergy updates

For patients with a prior CT or MRI contrast allergy, switching to a different contrast agent is the best way to prevent future reactions, with risk further reduced by steroid premedication. FRC offers Isovue and Optiray CT contrast. Inova stocks Omnipaque and Visipaque. All are low-osmolar, less allergenic than older ionic contrast no longer used. We encourage patients and providers to document specific contrast allergies by name, rather than “IV contrast”, to help select contrast agents to which a patient is not known to be allergic.

The term “iodine” allergy is discouraged, iodine being an essential mineral. Allergies to iodine soap, and food allergies including shellfish, do not predispose to having a contrast reaction. Patients with these allergies but no prior CT reaction can receive contrast without premedication.

Patients with a prior anaphylactoid or other severe contrast reaction are best scheduled at a hospital.

If you have any questions, please contact our physician line at **703.698.4443**. Thank you for choosing Fairfax Radiology.